Wednesday, November 18, 2009 • 11 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 341 P18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

PALACE RUN Presidential aspirants (from left) Sen. Benigno Aquino III, Roquerian's JC de los Reyes, former President Joseph Estrada, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, controversialist Nicanor Perlas, former Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr., Rev. Eddie Villanueva and Sen. Manny Villar at the taping of Isang Tanong Presidential Forum at GMA 7 sponsored by the TV network and the Philippine Daily Inquirer. The program will be aired in two segments on Nov. 22 and 29.

Gas prices start going up

SEN. MANNY VILLAR finally finds a running mate in Sen. Loren Legarda in his campaign for the presidency. He says while he has had differences with her in the past, they actually share a common vision to move the country forward.

Diesel now costs 2 pesos more per liter

By Amy R. Remo and Abigail L. Ho

TWO DAYS AFTER MALACAÑANG lifted the price caps on fuel, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and three small oil companies began raising their prices—diesel by P2 a liter, gasoline by P1.25 to P1.50 a liter and kerosene by P1.50 a liter.

The LPG of Pilipinas Shell will go up by P2 a kilogram.

Pilipinas Shell, Eastern Petroleum Corp. and Flying V Philippines yesterday said the price increases would take effect at their gas stations at 12:01 a.m. today.

Phoenix Petroleum's retail outlets will start charging the higher prices at 6 a.m. today.

Petron Corp., Chevron Philippines and other oil firms were mum about their own price increases as of press time.

Eastern Petroleum chair Fernando Martinez said the company had yet to determine when the second and third round of increases would be implemented.

"Ideally, the price increases should be implemented weekly, but it's still up to the market forces, since we are in a deregulated market. If prices in the world market fall, for instance, then the increase (will be offset)," he said.

GAS PRICES, A2

MAYWEATHER JR. He dares Pacquiao to "step up to the plate" if he wants a fight.

PACQUIAO Filipino ring icon is an early 6-5 favorite to whip Mayweather.

PACQUIAO VS MAYWEATHER

Talks start for richest fight in boxing history

LOS ANGELES—MANNY PACQUIAO and Floyd Mayweather Jr. will begin negotiations on a mega blockbuster fight within the next 24 hours, USA Today newspaper reported on Monday.

Mayweather wants to fight Pacquiao and it disturbs the American boxer that the Filipino won't admit he wants the fight as well, the newspaper reported.

"Manny Pacquiao is the fighter and every time someone asks him if he wants to fight me, he says it is up to his promoter, he's going to take a vacation, whatever the answer is," USA Today quoted Mayweather as saying.

"I have yet to hear him actually say, 'Yes I want to fight Mayweather.' We are the fighters and if one fighter is talking

TALKS, A13

Manny gets Loren but not NPC support

By Leila B. Salaverria and Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. MANUEL VILLAR MAY have gained a running mate in Sen. Loren Legarda in his quest for the presidency in the May elections, but not necessarily the support of her party.

Although Legarda has agreed to run with Villar under the Nacionalista Party (NP), this does not mean he will also have the backing of the Nacionalist People's Coalition (NPC), said Pangasinan Rep. Mark Cojuangco.

The son of business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, the NPC founder, said that while the coalition had agreed to allow Legarda, officially its vice

MANNY, A11

Bid to clear Villar in Senate C-5 probe derailed

By Christine O. Avendaño

AFTER A HEATED DEBATE, senators agreed yesterday to defer action on a resolution signed by 12 senators seeking the dismissal of the ethics case filed against Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. in connection with the C-5 Road extension project.

Senate Resolution No. 1472 has been referred to the committee on rules. It will be tackled only upon the completion of the report by the committee of the whole, which had been looking into the matter since last year.

The inquiry stemmed from allegations by Sen. Jamby Madrigal that Villar had ordered the double funding of P200 million for the C-5 Road extension project and that he had diverted the road to benefit his real estate empire.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile fired the first salvo in the debate by saying the five-page resolution was "out of order" because "in effect [it] seeks to discharge the committee of the whole and bring back the issue to the plenary."

BID TO CLEAR, A10

Even House Speaker finds things 'queer'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Philip C. Tubeza

IT'S AN OBSERVATION THAT Speaker Prospero Nograles finds "queer."

"That's quite a very interesting observation and kind of funny because as Speaker, I have such a hard time figuring out

EVEN, A6

Lipa bishop lifts ban on 'Our Lady'

By Marvin Erika Lesaba
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BATANGAS CITY—LIPA ARCHbishop Ramon Arguelles confirmed that he had lifted the 1951 ban on the public veneration of Our Lady, Medjugorje of All Grace.

In a phone interview last night, Arguelles said he lifted the ban on Nov. 12 as "there was nothing wrong in praising apparitions" as he was well-aware of "the love of the people for the Blessed Mother."

"The Blessed Mother has [protected] the country from calamities," he said.

In 1946, the Virgin Mary allegedly appeared 15 times to Teresita Castillo, a novice in the Carmelite Order in Lipa City.

LIPA BISHOP, A12

OUR LADY, Medjugorje of All Grace, appeared in 1946 to postulant Teresita Castillo (left) shown here with Mother Cecilia (center) and Bishop Alfredo Obviar.

Street kids' rescues are really arrests

By Philip C. Tubeza

"WHY DID THEY DO THAT TO us when they did not even know us?" Steve Estopito said, recalling the first time years ago when authorities "rescued" him off the streets of Malate, Manila.

Estopito said he was playing with his siblings and cousins under the neon sign in front of Malate Church when police in plainclothes collared them and forcibly took them to a dingy center for street children.

"They did not even ask where our parents were. We could not do anything, and we just cried."

STREET KIDS', A14

WHAT'S INSIDE

21st Ad Congress opens in Subic today
SECTION H

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando to quit post soon to run for President
METRO/ A23

Palace: Resolve Luisita row
NEWS/ A2

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/49	
2nd	29 13
3rd	4 17
4th	23 5
SUERTEBOLA	
2nd	8 8 5
3rd	9 8 9
4th	8 4 2

SIX DIGIT	
	3 3 0 2 1 4
4-PLUS-ONE 4-PIN	
	7 13 19 20 29 37
	P18,471,420.00
SUPERLOTTO 6/49	
	3 4 16 26 28 39
	P53,634,477.60

Palace: Resolve Luisita row

By TJ Burgonio and Rosette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY DIRECTED AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman to resolve any pending land dispute at the Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac and appealed to the family of Sen. Benigno Aquino III, one of its owners, to cooperate with the department.

"We will direct the DAR [Department of Agrarian Reform] to act with dispatch on the disposition of this case," Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said when asked to comment on farmers' hopes for the implementation of land reform in the Aquino estate before President Macapagal-Arroyo steps down in June 2010.

At the same time, Remonde appealed to the Aquino and Cojuangco families "to fully cooperate" with the Department of Agrarian Reform "in the immediate resolution of this case for the good of all concerned."

The agrarian conflict was set on the agenda in the regular meeting of the executive committee of Jose Cojuangco & Sons Inc. (JCSI), the firm that manages the still disputed sugar estate, yesterday.

Aquino, the Liberal Party's presidential candidate in next year's elections, did not have to attend the meeting because he is not a member of the executive committee, said Jose Remonde, JCSI vice president for corporate affairs.

The senator is a grandson of the Cojuangco patriarch Jose. His late father President Corazon Aquino, Benigno's mother, was a daughter of Jose.

But it was Aquino's sister, Ballsy Aquino-Cruz, who sat in the executive committee as a representative of the Aquino family, said Remonde.

JCSI is a Makati City-based management team of companies involved in agro-industrial businesses, real estate and development. Among its affiliates are HLI (Hacienda Luisita Inc.), Central Azucarera de Tarlac, Luisita Realty Corp., Luisita Golf and Country Club Inc., Tarlac Distillery Inc. and Luisita Marketing Corp.

Massacre

Gary Olivar, President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic spokesperson, said he would welcome any investigation of the so-called 2006 Luisita massacre if only to give Aquino a chance to address the issue.

"This gives him a chance to clear his name and avoid being a presenter in the court of public opinion," Olivar said, referring to the public disposal of striking hacienda workers on May 26, 2004, that resulted in the deaths of seven protesters and injuries to hundreds of others.

"We the same issues," Olivar said, "are we to be denied by judged for his own achievements and not because of his genetics, the same thing can applies if there are adverse things being brought up against him."

"That's only fair," he added.

Olivar stressed that public prosecution, including Aquino, should be given due treatment, especially in the run-up to the May 2010 elections.

"This is even more important in the middle of the campaign seasons when passions tend to run high and requires for facts reader to become forgotten. All the more we should remember. Let's stay with facts and let us not by passion of the court of public opinion," he said.

AQUINO

Pending in Supreme Court

The agrarian case was not discussed in the JCSI meeting because it remains in the Supreme Court, Remonde said.

In 2008, the high court issued a temporary restraining order that stopped the DAR from distributing 6,435 hectares in the 4,300-ha estate-covering La Paz and Concepcion towns and Tarlac City.

"It's unfortunate that this issue is being resolved where it is already in the Supreme Court," Remonde said.

Lawyer Antonio Ligot, HLI spokesperson, said the meeting of JCSI, the firm managing the Hacienda Luisita, had been scheduled for Dec. 11. The farmers have four leased seats in HLI.

Ligot, citing a report from JCSI assisted corporate secretary, said the JCSI executive committee discussed the "usual agenda" concerning company matters.

"JCSI is a different company from HLI. However has no bearing on [in JCSI] as far as we are part of the same bag," Ligot said.

"Somebody must be feeding this," he said, without identifying his possible financiers.

Aquino yesterday dodged inquiries about his participation in the JCSI meeting.

In a brief interview at the new GMA-7 Studio 7 building in Quezon City, the senator confirmed that he would attend the family meeting but declined to give any discussion about possible plans." He refused to elaborate.

On his way out of the building, Aquino told reporters that a solution to the Luisita issue "will not to deprive workers of their livelihood." With a report from Dolly Yeneracion

Comelec won't rain on Pacman's parade

By Dona Pazzibugan

BOXING ICON MANNY PACQUIAO could have his boxer's pseudo, but after he officially becomes a congressional candidate, he should limit his public appearances since these could be construed as premature campaigning.

Commissioner on Elections Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said since Pacquiao filed his certificate of candidacy (COC), he should be careful not to engage in activities, including appearing on television as a guest, that may be construed as promoting his candidacy ahead of the official start of the campaign period and a ground for disqualification.

"The moment he files [his COC], guestings could be seen as indirect promotion. So under our rules, that's forbidden," Sarmiento told reporters yesterday.

The Comelec would start accepting COCs from candidates for both national and local positions from Nov. 20 to Dec. 1. But the campaign period will not officially start until Feb. 9 for national candidates and March 26 for local candidates.

He however said that welcome parades for the boxing hero and even public congratulatory messages to swimmers could be allowed.

Pacquiao is scheduled to come home on Friday after his historic conquest of Puerto Rican pugilist Miguel Cotto, which earned him a record seventh world title in seven different weight divisions.

The Comelec considered last May Pacquiao's party, the People's Champ Movement, as a local political party.

Devanadera tops voting for SC, but …

ACTING JUSTICE SECRETARY AGNES Devanadera yesterday led the Supreme Court justices' seven choices to replace the recently retired Senior Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing and the soon-to-retire Associate Justice Minita Chico-Nazario.

Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez said the justices voted on their respective choices in connection with the Judicial and Bar Council's rule that the JBC would give "due weight" to the recommendations of the tribunal.

Marquez, however, said that the Supreme Court's nomination of Devanadera is conditioned on whether the JBC would decide to include her in its selection process considering the pending graft cases against her before the Ombudsman.

During the en banc session yesterday, Devanadera received eight votes from the 11 justices present.

Other Supreme Court applicants that received the tribunal's nod include Intellectual Property Court Judge Ma. Gracia Cortes-Bautista, who also received eight votes; Court of Appeals Justice Magdangal de Leon, five votes; appellate court Justices Romulo Cacnio, four votes; Jose Sison, four votes; court administrator Jose Perez, four votes; and lawyer Rodolfo Robles, four votes.

The JBC is scheduled to deliberate on its nominees for Quisumbing's consideration on Monday.

The President has 90 days from the date of a justice's retirement to name his or her replacement based on the list of at least three names submitted by the JBC.

The JBC is the constitutionally mandated body to screen applicants for the Supreme Court. – Norman Bordadora

Solons wary of BIR stamps on cigarettes

A PLAN THAT WOULD EFFECTIVELY HIKE cigarette prices yet possibly fail to boost government revenues was questioned by members of the House of Representatives yesterday.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) plans to add revenue stamps to cigarette packs to improve inventory monitoring and tracking of the tobacco products from factories to retail outlets in order to eliminate tax leakages and boost revenues by P13 billion.

The government has endorsed the BIR's plan which would use revenue stamps provided by Swiss-based SICPA Products Security Inc.

During a hearing of the House ways and means committee, former BIR commissioner and incumbent Comelec bet Rep. Lisandro Abalos III and Commissioner Kim Henares said that based on research conducted by her staff, the revenue stamps being pushed by SICPA showed "unclear indications as to any increase in tax collection and [minimizing] so-called leakages."

Instead the lawmakers noted that the stamps would cost P16 billion, which was 19% higher than the original estimate made in 2008.

At the hearing, SICPA director Rene Sidlesh Manuel inflationary pressures from 2008 to 2009 for the bike to cost but the lawmakers were skeptical.

Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Rufus Rodriguez demanded the BIR provide more empirical evidence to justify the adoption of the costly revenue stamps to boost revenues.

Rodriguez likened the plan to the abort of 1984-DTE national broadband deal where the government decided to undertake a bloated contract for a service that had no pressing need.

The lawmakers also pointed out that a revenue stamp tax that would force consumers to pay more would be self-defeating because it would only encourage the smuggling of the product. AVA C. Gabuyo/cgm Jr.

BEDRIDDEN BEDSORES?
FLYPAD
09228910322
www.breastmed.net

AETA GREETING. President Macapagal Arroyo greets an Aeta woman during her visit in Barangay Diaz in Pena, Pampanga to inspect the construction of a classroom. GERMAN DOMINGO

NEW ARRIVAL!
PORTABLE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM
EUROPORT EP8900
JUST LISTEN.
EUROPORT EP8900

Corrections

IN THE NOV 16 ISSUE, an article on Page 8A—"It's time to collaborate, say storm victims after flight"—misnamed the dam where Tropical Storm "Ondoy" struck the country. Ondoy struck on Sept. 26—not Sept. 25.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a headline and story on Page A7—"Cops find Julia principal's body"—misstated the discovery of November victim Gabriel Canizares, whose severed head was found recently in Sitio Canizares was the head teacher—not principal—of a public school in Iriga. The same story also contained an erroneous police report that Canizares' body was discovered on Nov. 14, or five days after his head was found. Both the head and body of Canizares were recovered on Nov. 9.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors in writing to the Ops Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Clifton Street in [illegible] Makati City, Metro Manila; fax No. 897-9392-96; e-mail address: [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to the Publisher, e-mail address: [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph or fax No. 893-9252-94, 4hrs. The Publisher. His phone number is 897-0808 Local 2000.

New school brings tears to eyes of Aeta student

PORAC, PAMPANGA—AN AETA ELEMENTARY school student, who had appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo in June to give her village a school, was the President's guest on Tuesday this time with tears in her eyes.

Tears of joy, that is.

Joan Dayo, 14, a fifth grader, wept after her plea was answered with the start of construction of a two-classroom school building in the remote village of Diaz here.

Dayo told Ms Arroyo the school would need more hours of hiking to reach Sitio Diaz in the nearest school, the Villa Maria Elementary School in Barangay Villa Maria, about a two-hour hike away.

"It would be the first school here. Some students have to walk for hours just to attend our classes," said Dayo in Kapampangan.

Children in Barangay Diaz leave their homes before sunrise to catch their 7 a.m. class at VMES. Most of them stay with relatives in Barangay Villa Maria during school days and return to Diaz on Friday afternoons.

Wish come true

"I am very happy that President Arroyo made my wish come true," Dayo said.

The President hugged Dayo as the latter cried to hide her tears.

"This is a remarkable day for me more so for the school-less villages in the country will soon have a school building," Ms Arroyo said.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said the school, which is expected to be completed by December, would follow a multi-level type of learning where a small number of students are merged into a class.

Around 15 first grade students and 11 second graders are expected to study there.

Ms Arroyo asked Lapus to look for another teacher who could teach Grades 5 and 6, apart from the teacher assigned to the village.

She told the Aeta residents that one of the classrooms would first be used as a health center. She also promised to bring electricity to their village soon.

Barangay Diaz was the last of six Aeta communities in Porac Ms Arroyo visited. The others were Villa Maria, Sapang Uwak, Camias, Inararo and Cacutud.

The village is accessible only to four-wheel drive vehicles because of its rugged roads.

Village chief Dionisio Galan said around 300 Aetas live there.

"For one of us owns a four-wheel drive, here as when we want to go to the town proper we have to walk for two hours," Galan said, adding that they go to the nearest market in groups once a week in Bay/Cool.

In Pangasinan, where Ms Arroyo proceeded after Tarapanga, an unscheduled power interruption prevented her from delivering a speech shortly after the inauguration of the P11-million Asinan Civic Center in Malasiqui.

Ms Arroyo, who was accompanied by Pangasinan Rep. Ma. Rachel Arenas and her mother, Josie Marie "Baby" Arenas, was on stage when the power went out.

"It was not intentional," said Concepcion Carmona, manager of the General Pangasinan Electric Cooperative member services division.

After the ceremony, Ms Arroyo was briefed on the status of the Agno River north dikes, which were breached during the onslaught of Tropical Storm "Pepeng."

Charlene Gamboa, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Gabriel Cardenas, Inquirer Northern Luzon

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
NUS BUSINESS SCHOOL'S
ASIA-PACIFIC EXECUTIVE MBA
RANKED
11TH
EMBA
WORLDWIDE
FINANCIAL TIMES
EMBA RANKINGS 2009
Another significant milestone towards the APEX of Excellence!
Ranked 11th EMBA Worldwide
Ranked 1st Worldwide in International Participants
apexe.nus.edu
(65) 6516 7800
ASIA'S GLOBAL BUSINESS SCHOOL
NUS
NUS BUSINESS SCHOOL

The Daily Gospel

[illegible]

Jesus foretells more wars, broadens and disrupts with false thought that God's reign was about to appear. He as they were listening to him, Jesus went on to tell them a parable. He said, "A man of noble birth went to a distant place to have himself appointed king of his own people, after which he returned. Before he left, he summoned ten of his servants and gave them 10 pounds. He told them to work until I get back. But his compatriots who disliked him sent a delegation after him with this message: 'We do not want this man to be our king.'

"He returned, however, appointed as king, so once he was in the servants to whom he had given the money to find out what profit each had made. The first one came and reported: 'Sir, your pound has earned 10 more.'

"His master replied: 'Well done, my good servant. Since you have proved yourself capable in a small matter, I am to set you to take charge of 10 cities.' The second reported: 'Sir, your pound has earned five more pounds.' The master replied: 'Right, take charge of five cities.'

"The third came in and said: 'Sir, here is your money which I hid for safekeeping. I was afraid of you for you are an exacting person; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.'

"The master replied: 'You scoundrel servant, I will judge you by your own words. So you knew I was an exacting person, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? Why, then, did you not put my money on loan so that when I got back I could have collected it with interest?'

"Then the master said to those standing by: 'Take from him that pound, and give it to the one with ten pounds.' They objected: 'But, sir, he already has 10!'

"I tell you: Everyone who has will be given more; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for my enemies who did not want me to be king, bring them in and execute them right here in my presence.'"

As Jesus spoke, and he went on ahead of them, on his way to Jerusalem.

Commentary:

It is mistake to think that all professing Christians will be saved on reason. He must have to work out our own salvation and are responsible to Christ, the redeemer, for the way, in which we have managed our time, resources and talents. Salvation depends on personal effort and identification with the working out of our salvation, placed upon us by Christ. The second servant's end emphasizes the importance of having a balanced knowledge and appreciation of the ways of Christ. Right conduct will be our positive response to the grace hope bestowed on those of us who, serving in the military, have to forgive giving us the same hope of deliverance into His kingdom.

PSBank offers industry first: Rebates on loan payments

You've figured out your budget for the month when that long-awaited payment for your regular sideline suddenly drops on your lap.

A small business you started out with your friends suddenly enjoys a windfall after exceptional sales at the recently-held bazaar.

Or your Christmas bonus comes earlier than usual. All delightful propositions that make you dream of new gadgets and exciting vacations for you and your loved ones.

But wait! Why don't you set aside a good portion of that extra money by paying your PSBank loan so you can enjoy benefits you will never find in any other bank – the PSBank Prime Rebate!

A first in Philippine banking, the PSBank Prime Rebate allows you to earn rebates when you pay your loans in advance or in excess of your monthly due.

An advance payment is when a client pays his loan before the scheduled monthly due date. On the other hand, an excess payment is when a client pays on the monthly due date but in excess of his monthly due.

Rebates on advance or excess payments are computed on a daily basis (including weekends and holidays), starting on the date the payment is posted, and credited every due date.

What's more, there is no minimum amount of advance or excess payment for it to earn a rebate. So you can pay whatever extra amount you have right now to increase your rebate!

"We want our customers to benefit from any excess or advance payments that they make on their loans. The PSBank Prime Rebate shortens their loan term, reduces their loan's total amount, or both. This gives them the flexibility and ease of paying off their loans in a shorter period of time or at a discounted rate over time," PSBank President Pascual M. Garcia III said.

Prime Rebate is available for all new and existing term loans. This includes PSBank Auto Loan, PSBank Home Loan, PSBank SME Term Loans, and PSBank Flexi.

Reward to customers

Unlike other banks where advance or excess payments on loans or credit cards are flipped and does not earn any kind of rebate, PSBank customers can expect to get a rebate for any amount of advance or excess payments made on their loans.

"It is our way of rewarding them and giving more value to their hard-earned money, especially in these difficult times," said Mr. Garcia.

PSBank customers can also enjoy the "rewards" of paying loans at a shorter period of time. Unlike in other banks where people get tied up with paying huge amortizations for years, PSBank clients can afford to enjoy other things in life because they are able to pay off their loans faster.

"PSBank customers who faithfully pay in advance or in excess, or both, can definitely look forward to acquiring more investments or starting their very own business because they know they can finish paying the loan faster," he added.

Payment facilities

There's no need to go through a long and tedious process to avail of PSBank Prime Rebate. If you currently have a PSBank loan, any advance or excess payments automatically allows you to enjoy this unique feature.

You can do this by paying over-the-counter in any of PSBank's 119 branches and 298 ATMs nationwide. You can also do this through automatic debit arrangement and through PSBank Remote Banking online payment. Check payments are also accepted but rebate computation will start only upon check clearance.

If you haven't applied for a PSBank loan yet, then now's the perfect time to get one! Not only do you enjoy fast credit decision on your loan applications, friendly customer service, flexible terms and attractive rates, you also get a "reward" for paying in excess or in advance.

For more details on the PSBank Prime Rebate and how to avail of PSBank loans, please call the PSBank Customer Service Hotline at (02) 845-8888 anytime, any day, visit any of PSBank's branches nationwide, or log on to www.psbank.com.ph.

ENDANGERED: This sea turtle (pawikan) was caught by a fisherman's net Monday night in Bacuit Bay in Barangay Tablac, Bacuit, Cuntiz. The endangered creature will be turned over to the local government of Bacuit for proper disposal.

Secret Mindanao MOA in the works, says Piñol

DAVAO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT IS drafting "with the utmost secrecy" a comprehensive resource agreement to be presented to the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), according to North Cotabato Vice Governor Emmanuel Piñol.

Speaking at the Kapihan sa Bisaya on Cafe Ilpina at the JM City mall, Piñol said he learned about the new document "from a reliable source."

Piñol said there was "something fishy" in the new draft agreement because the government has not informed other stakeholders about it.

Piñol said that unlike the controversial Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) that was voided by the Supreme Court, the new draft agreement does not define the areas to be included in an expanded Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

"The document talks about executive government and diplomatic powers, the areas for inclusion in the ARMM were not identified," he said.

The Inquirer tried but failed to reach the government officials involved in the peace process.

Ambassador Rafael Seguis and the members of the government peace panel were all in Malaysia, a source said.

Ghazali Jaafar, the MILF political affairs officer, confirmed that the government and the MILF peace panels were engaged in another round of meetings in Kuala Lumpur.

But Jaafar said the government has not presented any draft agreement.

Always imagines things'

He said the peace talks have not resumed as presenting a draft final peace agreement was not in order.

"He always imagines things," he said of Piñol.

Jaafar said what was being discussed in Malaysia were the agreements on the peaceful relations of the International Contact Group (ICG) in the peace process and civilian protection, which were signed in Oct. 31.

He said the two panels have decided to continue discussing the agreements in Kuala Lumpur next month.

Jaafar said he suspected that Piñol was capitalizing on the issue of the peace agreement to prop up his gubernatorial bid.

"It's part of his political gimmickry," he said.

Piñol said he has no problem supporting any agreement between the government and the MILF as long as the discussions were conducted with transparency.

"There must be an end to the peace process," he said.

Piñol was among the local government officials of Mindanao who petitioned the Supreme Court to invalidate the MOA-AD, a draft final peace agreement drafted by the negotiating panels.

In October 2008, the high court nullified the MOA-AD for being unconstitutional and for having been drawn up without consultations with stakeholders. *Jody Quirave with a report from Allen Aroxol, Inquirer Mindanao*

LACK of OXYGEN can KILL!
OXYPURE
09228910322
THE LAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
www.lanaastimed.net

need a job?

Affordable European Inspired Furniture
CONCEPTO
MICHELLE MOORE
HL Furniture Collection
DEXTERTON

LACK OF QUORUM

House fails to dismiss Mercy's impeachment

By Leila B. Salaverria

AFTER THREE HOURS OF DEBATE, THE House of Representatives failed to muster the final threshold of the impeachment complaint against Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez for lack of a quorum.

Though the dismissal of the complaint is expected because the House is dominated by administration allies, lawmakers were unable to take a vote after it emerged after a roll call that there were only 116 out of 220 members present.

The plenary tackled the justice committee report recommending the dismissal of the impeachment complaint and was fully expected to approve it at the end of the session.

But just as the voting was about to begin, Akbayan party-list member Rose Horterosa moved to determine whether there was a quorum.

A roll call was conducted, and only only 116 members present, the session had to adjourn.

The grounds cited for Gutierrez's impeachment were her alleged inaction on the the P728 million fertilizer fund scam, the "euro-generals" controversy, the alleged corruption in World Bank-funded road projects and her decision to clear government officials of any culpability for the P1.2 billion Mega-Pacific deal that the Supreme Court had nullified.

She was also accused of filing defective cases against former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and of showing bias in dismissing and suspending Iloilo Gov. Neil Tupas and Iloilo Rep. Enrique Garcia.

The justice committee recommended the dismissal of the complaint, saying the Ombudsman can act with sufficient discretion when ruling on cases brought before her, and that the cases cited were pending in the courts. Legislators also said the allegations were not supported by evidence.

The Office of the Ombudsman earlier cleared President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, of any culpability in the allegedly corrupt NBN-ZTE deal, and also upheld the contract that has since been scrapped.

Ad Congress goes to Subic

By Robert Gonzaga
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—DESPITE THE short, three-week preparation for the 21st Philippine Advertising Congress here, chairperson and Obmudsjay City are ready to welcome delegates, as the biggest event in the local advertising industry opens today.

The event, which brings together the country's top business, advertising and media firms, was originally scheduled in Baguio City, but the venue was transferred here after roads leading to the summer capital were damaged by landslides and floods triggered by strong typhoons in October.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority administrator (SBMA) Armando Arenas said due to time constraints, the preparation for the PAC had to be rushed so it could begin today, as originally planned by its organizers.

"There was no time to prepare like in 2007, when Subic hosted the PAC) because of the late decision [to transfer the venue here]," Arenas said.

Despite Arenas's cited hearing of the event will be a scaled-down version compared to the 2007 and 1993 events, Arenas said Subic "will give it everything we've got."

"We are ready. All systems go," he said.

Welcome back to Subic

In 2007, the 12,000-square meter Subic Bay Exhibit and Convention Center (SBECC) was refurbished to host the 20th PAC. The convention center has a 2,400-sq m plenary hall and an exhibit area covering about 10,000 sq m. It can accommodate more than 5,000 delegates.

In an earlier briefing, Imagez Towers, 21st PAC chairperson organizers were thankful to the SBMA for "welcoming us back to Subic as such short notice."

"Subic has made it possible for the 21st PAC to carry on," she said.

Torres said like in 2007, hotels in and around the Subic freeport could accommodate the more than 5,000 congress delegates.

She said the congress' theme and topics were unchanged, although they would be to cater to the impact of the ongoing struggle by strong typhoons would be discussed.

"We started this congress with a vision which is fun and relevant learning for the industry. But our theme, 'Perspectives' 800 in simple mes?" tolerance bigger challenges. 'What started out as an economic crisis has turned into a socioeconomic and environmental crisis," Torres said.

Modalas ba ang backjob repairs sa tiling?
Why settle for poor quality tile adhesive?
For best tiling works!
Quality Tile Grout
Premium
MORTABOND
Tile Adhesive
Ultra-strength+ All Purpose
Premium
RAINBOW
Tile Grout
Non-powdered when dry
For more inquiries & technical info: http://www.mortabond.com
Tels. 983-0918/ 983-0919 / 334-7879 / 798-4633

Score Higher & Improve Your Candidacy
ICSEC
KAPLAN
USMLE
U.S. Medical Licensing Examination
• Personal Learning System
• Highest-Yield Content
• Question Practice, Exam Simulation and Strategy

Gibo, Noynoy make vow for clean polls

By Cathy Yamsuan

BITTER LOSS THAT HOVES.

Two presidential aspirants yesterday vowed to uphold clean, orderly and honest elections in May 2010 during simple rites witnessed by GMA-7 executives and other "Election 2010" news coverage partners including the Inquirer Daze Inquirer at the television network's new Studio 7 building in Quezon City.

With right hands raised, Sen. Benigno Aquino III and former Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro joined the ranks of other presidential hopefuls who took the same pledge in another ceremony last August.

GMA anchor Mel Tiangco, in her introduction, said Aquino and Teodoro had not yet announced their plans to run for president when the original "Panunumpa" ceremony was held in Taguig City last Aug. 30.

The event, highlighted by a rundown of 2,000 resolutions, was attended by former President Joseph Estrada, Senators Manny Villar, Loren Legarda, Mar Roxas, Aurelio Madrigal, Panotts "Chiz" Escudero, Richard Gordon, Pimpin Pangilinan, Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Bayani Fernando and religious leader Bro. Eddie Villanueva.

At Panunumpa 2, Aquino and Teodoro wore similar white-collared shirts with the GMA-7 logo emblazoned on the sleeve as they promised not to resort to violence, patronage politics and cheating in the May elections.

Aquino wore black slacks, black leather shoes, a stainless watch and narrow-framed glasses. Teodoro donned khaki blue jeans, blue sneakers and a gold watch.

Commission on Elections (Comelec) Director Rainel Balmeo led the pledging ceremony that lasted more than two minutes.

He said the two candidates "have expressed their willingness to abide by the rules and regulations set by the Comelec."

Balmeo said the Comelec is "hopeful that the candidates will keep their promise."

Aquino and Teodoro signed a pledge of commitment to the Comelec, which was witnessed by Chairman Jose Melo and Commissioners Nicodemo Ferrer, Rene Sarmiento, Lucenito Tagle, Armando Velasco, Gregorio Larrazabal and Elias Yusoph.

Aquino and Teodoro also signed a covenant with the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) and the Philippine Press Institute (PPI).

Aquino and Teodoro also signed a covenant with the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) and the Philippine Press Institute (PPI).

Farmers now listen to Pagasa, not animals

By Alcuin Papa

THERE'LL BE NO MORE TURNING to Barong, Bakak or Tandang for clues on the weather.

Farmers in the eastern Samar town learning lessons from animals and relying more on science for the weather forecasts, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has observed.

Dairy Ortega, senior weather specialist at Pagasa's climatology and agrometeorology division, told reporters at a media workshop in Tacloban (Inquirer), Bergantes, yesterday that farmers had started to appreciate the seasonal climate forecasts generated by the state weather bureau.

"The rains have been coming in normal times of the year. The normal weather patterns which the farmers have been exposed to through the years and which were used to them by their animals' behavior no longer apply," Ortega said.

She said that Pagasa had reached out in the past years to farmers through an information campaign explaining the changing climate and weather patterns.

Now farmer groups and farm managers contact her division for advice on the climate so they could plan out their harvest year after year.

The problems, Ortega said, is how to make Pagasa's scientific forecasts more understandable and thus more useful to the farmers.

"We feel that we have managed to reach out to them and they are more open to a more scientific basis for the weather," Ortega said.

Some animal-rare farmers had relied on, Ortega said, included their dizziness running around before the coming of rains.

Frogs also begin to croak and moths flock to light just before it rains, while dogs are known to howl when they sense bad weather.

Immigration chiefs tackle Asean visa

IMMIGRATION CHIEFS FROM THE ASEAN region of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) yesterday agreed to discuss the Philippine proposal to adopt a common visa for non-Asean nationals to boost tourist receipts and combat transnational crimes in the 10 member-countries.

Dr. Terresak Chalermpalanupap, Asean secretariat director of political and security directorate, said there is a "tacit agreement" to discuss the common visa proposal today, the last day of the 14th meeting of Asean Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Division of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) at the Sirw World Hotel in Makati City.

He said Asean nationals were already exempt from the common visa proposal when traveling within the region.

"A common visa is for outsiders coming to (an Asean) region. For example, Australians and Americans just need to file one visa at any Asean embassy. With that one common visa, he can travel to any of the 10 member-states—that's the idea," Chalermpalanupap said in a press conference.

Main proponent

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan, the main proponent of the common visa proposal, likened this to the Schengen visa that allows its holder to move freely in member states of the European Union who signed the Schengen agreement.

By adopting a common visa, a non-Asean national could enter Asean member-states without securing another entry visa, he said.

Once approved, Asean member-states will be consulted on every common visa application filed within their jurisdiction. Information from the visa application will be matched with an Asean database or website to check if the applicant has any bad record before issuing a visa.

"For example, we have information that a lot of pedophiles prey on Southeast Asian countries. So a known pedophile who committed an offense in any Asean member-state will have a derogatory record," Libanan said. "A denial of that visa will affect the entry to other member-states and would save our children from the menace of pedophilia."

Chalermpalanupap said he did not expect any new agreements, including one on the common visa, to be approved at the end of the three-day conference.

"We don't expect it to be immediately approved. It's a work in progress," Libanan said.

Asked how the visa could increase tourist arrivals, the Immigration Chief said the non-Asean visa holder could visit any one or all of the 10 member-countries which are: Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Laos, Cambodia, Brunei (Myanmar) and Brunei.

Libanan said the Asean forum sought to strike a meaningful balance among Asean member-countries in promoting regional tourism, trade and investments without sacrificing national security.

The forum was convened to craft a comprehensive plan of action of the Asean against counter-terrorism, chiefs the terms of reference of information sharing among member-countries on lost and stolen passports and other travel documents and identify contact persons in each member country. Cynthia D. Rebong

Senators confront Reyes over oil shortage warning

By Christine O. Avendaño

SENATORS YESTERDAY CONfronted Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes on his warning that the country was facing a fuel shortage because of an executive order lowering fuel prices in Luzon.

Oil firms told the Senate energy committee chaired by Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan that there was no danger of fuel running out for eight to 12 days as Reyes claimed on Nov. 9 because their stocks could last up to a month at that time.

Advocating the other day lifted the price caps on fuel in Luzon that was imposed in July purple to Ivatan, including Metro Manila, who—when badly affected by two devastating storms.

Sen. Joker Arroyo told Reyes that the latter "embarrassed" the nation because the energy secretary's statement alarmed the public.

"It's a good thing companies and car owners did not stock up gas stations trying to fill up their tanks ...," Arroyo said. "So perhaps next time, let's be more circumspect."

Edgar Chua, president of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., told senators that Shell still had an inventory of 15 days for finished products and another 15 days for crude.

Jose Jesus Laurel, vice president of Petron Corp., said Petron had an inventory of 22 days for finished products and 15 days for crude.

Upon hearing this, Arroyo asked Reyes why he "did not convene the stakeholders for the point of mind of the public."

Reyes said he did so. "I did convene my statement. I was referring to finished good inventory" of Total Petroleum Corp.'s 15 day inventory Reyes said.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile told reporters after the hearing that Reyes had made an "error" because he "should have considered the fact that the volume is much, much bigger than just 5 percent."

Enrile said Reyes was just referring to Total's inventory, which accounted for only 5 percent of the market.

In the hearing, senators asked why there were still some gas stations that had run out of fuel. Reyes said a gas station and a refill station at Tagaytay in Manila had "no stocks."

The demand for fuel from Petron has increased because small oil firms shut down and their customers "migrated" to Petron, which has a bigger number of retail outlets in the country, according to its officials.

Enrile asked whether there was hoarding but Petron officials said they did not know. They said demand for Petron products had increased by 30 percent.

Chua said Shell continued to produce fuel. "We don't hold back on cube because otherwise the refinery is tanks will fill up and we have to shut down," he said.

Gas prices start going up

Front page A1

Oil industry executives early on said that the amount they had to recover stood at P4 to P5 a liter because of Executive Order No. 839 that froze fuel prices at their Oct. 13 levels in Luzon, which was placed in a state of calamity because of the damaged wrought by storms.

Discounts

On Monday President Rhon Jaquel Arroyo lifted the cap on fuel prices through EO 849 and directed a task force to implement proposals promised by oil firms, including discounts and staggered price adjustments.

Several firms and big business vehemently opposed the price freeze, warning that it would lead to a fuel shortage, cause the oil industry to incur huge losses and divert investments.

Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes himself announced that the country's inventory of refined petroleum products were running low.

Over the past week, a number of gas stations have either shortened service hours or stopped selling, claiming that their supplies have been depleted.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. took legal action against EO 839, saying that the order encroaches on the Oil Deregulation Law.

Court ruling

Despite the lifting of EO 839, the Makati Regional Trial Court will still conduct a hearing for preliminary injunction on a case that Shell filed against the order.

In a decision dated on Nov. 13, three days before the order freezing fuel prices was lifted, Judge Ma Rowena Damayo ruled with Shell.

Damayo issued a temporary restraining order on the implementation of EO 839 and scheduled the injunction hearing for Nov. 23.

He said EO 839 was invalid.

Three installments

Martinez, who also chairs the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association, earlier assured the public that the oil firms would not recoup their undue recoveries in one blow.

Recovery would likely be implemented in three installments as competitive forces would ultimately determine where fuel prices would go after the lifting of EO 839, Martinez said.

Prices up in other areas

Exide's Nicholson was the first and only oil firm to announce a price increase as of press time, although an industry source said that prices of wholesale products in several areas had already gone up.

The source said several gas stations on Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City, Gasoline in Caloocan City, Mollino in Cavite, Mabalacat in Pampanga and Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, among others, have raised pump prices of diesel between P1.45 and P2 a liter.

This had brought prices of diesel in those areas to at least P38 a liter as smaller oil firms in the area had similarly lifted their prices, the source added.

Martinez said he expected Eastern Petroleum to resume its normal operations within 10 days.

Dubai crude

As of Nov. 10, data from the Department of Energy showed that the regional benchmark Dubai crude had climbed to an average of $57/a barrel, from an average of $53/a barrel in October.

The price of refloated gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products likewise increased to set $61.a barrel average as of Nov. 16, from last month's average of $58 a barrel.

The MOPS-based diesel rate to an average price of $65.a barrel in the Nov. 1-16 period, from $60 a barrel last month.

Revisit Constitution

Judge Widene Damayo said that in coming up with the decision declaring EO 839 invalid, he considered the constitutional provision on Congress' authority to give the President special powers "for a limited time and subject to such restrictions" during times of war or national emergency.

"Applying the foregoing constitutional provision in the present case, this court is constrained that EO 839 is invalid. The constitutionality of the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998, from which the EO derives its force, calls for the revisiting of [Congress'] authority," he said.

"Clearly, the provisions of EO 839 and the Oil Deregulation Law did not specify the time frame within which the special power granted to the President, or her alter ego, should end, "such sweeping power may be exercised by them arbitrarily to the prejudice of the oil firms' rights. It gives them discretionary authority to what circumstances such emergency power may be applicable," Damayo said.

The implementation of EO 839 could distort the law on supply and demand, causing one or the other to grossly suffer, he said.

A GASOLINE station in Bacoor, Cavite, displays a large sign telling customers its diesel stock has run dry. Gas stations started raising their prices on Tuesday after President Arroyo lifted EO 839 freezing the prices of fuel products in Luzon. EDD CASTRO

Even Speaker finds things 'queer' at the House

Front page A1

who is what and what is who. And why is who a what or why is what a who?" Negrales said in a text message to reporters.

Negrales was reacting to the statement of an official of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) that gays and lesbians were underrepresented in Congress.

"Actually, [Ang Ladlad is] underrepresented in the lower house and in the upper house ... in the military ... in the religious," Commissioner Nicodemus Ferrer said at a press conference on Monday, defending the poll body's decision to deny the group's petition to run as a party-list group in the May 2010 elections.

Ferrer chairs the Comelec's Second Division that did not accredit Ang Ladlad, a gay group, as a party-list group.

While the Comelec has the sole authority to determine those qualified to run in an election, the gays and lesbians could still bring their case to the Supreme Court, according to Negrales.

Doubly appalling

Lidlo de Lima, chair of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), severely lambasted Ferrer for his "coded comment" that there were many gays and lesbians in Congress and was party-list representative for homosexuals was no longer necessary.

De Lima said Ferrer's statement showed that he apparently had not "appreciated the essence" of marginalized groups having representation in Congress even after the Comelec ruling disqualifying Ang Ladlad was roundly criticized.

"That's first. I call it doubly appalling. Those comments if coolly true, were doubly appalling even if it's made in jest," De Lima said in an interview.

"The ruling chief of the (Comelec) Second Division is doubly appalling as it is ... now, these coded statements of the honorable commissioner ... [it] is doubly appalling," she added.

Objects of discrimination

De Lima said gays were marginalized because they were "common objects of discrimination" in Philippine society.

"They need to be represented in Congress to push for measures to address their concerns and interests to get rid of that discrimination, she said.

"The issue here is discrimination and discrimination is a human rights issue," she added.

Ready to support Ang Ladlad

De Lima said the CHR was ready to support Ang Ladlad in its fight to be allowed to run in the May 2010 elections even if the issue reached the Supreme Court.

"We are determining if we should intervene as the Comelec as they might decide to go directly to the Supreme Court," she said.

"There No. 1 enemy right now is time. They only have three more days because (Comelec) has to finalize the list of party-list groups because they would be included in the ballot," she said.

De Lima, an election lawyer before she was appointed CHR chair, said Ang Ladlad might go the Supreme Court, but there was also the danger of the tribunal junking its petition "on a technicality."

"That's because you usually have to file a motion for reconsideration with the Comelec en banc first. But of course, there are exceptions to the general rule like cases with urgent necessity," she said.

"But we will support them. That was stated to Ang Ladlad already. We will definitely support," De Lima added.

NODALES. Having a hard time figuring out who is what and what is who in the House. ERIC BALDEMOR

SPY CAMERA
Tel: 498-4263/2590/0920-7816999
Website: www.goodhand88.com

InFocus
SHOW! Don't Tell.
Visualize your ideas in full confidence and clarity. InFocus projectors magnify your thoughts in a most vivid and straight-forward manner. Real result comes with great conviction. Make bright ideas brilliant with InFocus.
X16
X21
P24,990*
2-year warranty
5 YEAR WARRANTY
American Technologies, Inc. | Showroom: 2 Ilaw St. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong | Tel: 584-3000 | Fax: 584-4888 | Email: inquiry@ati.com.ph | Visit: www.ati.com.ph

Reporters protest PNP restrictions at Camp Crame

By Marlon Ramos

THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) has restricted the entry of journalists into its main camp in Quezon City "to guard against bogus reporters," its spokesperson said yesterday.

"Camp Crame is a police headquarters. It's just normal for us to toughen our security measures," said Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina in a statement.

This after reporters covering Crame stand had filed a protest following an attempt by camp police manning its Santolan gate to block the entry of a radio reporter at 8:20 a.m. yesterday.

Espina said the order to check the credentials of reporters entering the camp did not come from his office but was made in the "discretion" of the camp commander, Chief Supt. Franklin Alabanza.

New directive

The new directive, Espina said, was not meant to harass journalists.

"It's for the protection of legitimate members of the media," he said, citing past incidents when "fake nine" (fake) reporters extorted the camp and made the rounds of police officials' offices in order to extort money.

"I hope the miscommunication that may have been created by the guard's security check would be met with milder passage rite and understanding," said Espina.

Silvestre Libay, a reporter of dxKL-RMN radio, was refused entry to the camp by a member of the "base police" even though Libay was in his station's marked vehicle.

Libay said he was surprised when a PO1 Canoy asked for his press ID and for the license of his driver.

Libay said the policeman then told him to get a "clearance" from Espina.

"I was really shocked because we were on board a media vehicle," said Libay, who has been covering the police and defense beats for more than a year.

'Euro generals'

Libay said he was let into the camp 30 minutes later after dxMM radio reporter and PNP Press Corps president Noel Alamar intervened.

Later that day, a group of news photographers was also barred from entering the camp until they were "cleared" by Espina's office.

"I thought Camp Crame was under martial law," said one of the photographers.

Reporters said the PNP also restricted entry in the camp during the "euro generals" scandal last year, when eight police generals were caught at the Moscow airport in possession of over 100,000 euros (about P6.9 million) in hand luggage from the staffers of the PNP in Manila.

Alamar said the PNP press corps did not receive any notice about the new regulation for journalists.

"This is not actually the first time that a member of the PNP press corps was inappropriately treated by the base police of Camp Crame. I just hope that is the last," Alamar told the reporters.

To prevent similar incidents in the future, Espina said the PNP would issue IDs to reporters covering Camp Crame.

People's Choice
GOLD 2008
GOLD 2006
GOLD 2005
PLATINUM 2004
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999
GOLD

PILOT
Refillable Ball Point Stick Pens

COSMOS BAZAAR, INC.
PILOT CORPORATION

INQUIRER
OPINION

Depth not demolition

THIS EARLY, WE SEE THE PRESIDENTIAL AND vice-presidential races heading straight to the gutter, instead of a battlefield of contrasting platforms and principles. Everything and anything—whether there are the most permissible questions about the financial activities of candidates or their positions on past and present public interest questions, or unutterable slander ranging from sex to genetics—seems to be fair game, not least through essentially unverifiable, and thus deniable, methods of transmittal such as text messages and online commentary.

EDITORIAL

We believe this is less a function of the inclinations of voters, and more a sign of desperation on the part of candidates and their campaigns. Candidates who believe themselves weak when it comes to issues the electorate deeply cares about will have no problem trying to erode the standing of their rivals by means of character assassination. This is less about the public deserving to know about such things, as it is about experimenting until an issue can be found that, rightly or wrongly, can help bring down an opponent.

By and large, the public has been clear about what it wants during this, and previous, campaigns: for the candidates to square off against each other in public debates and forums; and for the various sinclines to campaign on the basis of platforms that spell out their prescriptions for solutions to the country's many problems.

But what the public wants isn't what it will necessarily get from the candidates. In 2004 the major candidates for the presidency refused to debate each other; and so, while the two leading contenders did have clear platforms, the public was deprived of the opportunity to compare and contrast the platforms—and the ability of the candidates to explain and uphold their positions on the issues.

Up to this point, what the various presidential candidates have been doing is to introduce themselves to the electorate, in the hope that their bids prove attractive enough to gain a formidable running mate and put the nucleus at the head of a coalition with the national scope and scale necessary to mount a viable campaign. This period will come to an end with the formal filing of candidacies. After that, the system having been created, it will be up to them to duke it out with each other, to win in votes.

The 2010 campaign is, then, pretty much, set. The contending tandems are in place and all that's left for them to do is formally file their certificates of candidacy. What comes next? There's the thorny problem of a certain Supreme Court decision that essentially requires the announced tandems to hold off campaigning from the end of November to the first week of February. We do not know if it's possible that the Court will revisit this decision on appeal, but in the absence of any change, we believe the candidates must take the responsible path and give the electorate something to chew on for the next two months.

As it is, the contenders seem to be, Aquino-Binay, Estrada-Binay, Teodoro-Manzano, Villar-Legarda, and quite possibly Escudero running as an independent for president or vice president. Of these, Estrada-Binay were the first to go through the formalities of a convention and the proclamation of a platform, though this hasn't been widely published and disseminated. Villar and Legarda, who consummated their political union yesterday, have talked about their uniting eye to eye and being in harmony about their separate platforms, and we can only hope that their joint platforms will come be publicized.

Aquino-Roxas and Teodoro-Manzano have been tight-lipped about whether or not they will publish a campaign platform, while Escudero, if he becomes an independent candidate, must enunciate what he stands for. In all these cases, we urge all the tandems to formalize their joint platforms by the time they file their certificates of candidacy before the Comelec.

This will allow the public to compare and contrast them over the next two months, and to be prepared to hold the candidates accountable for their contents come the campaign season from February to May.

Publisher Isaac Belmonte
Editor-in-Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Joe Ma. D. Nolasco
Associate Editor Margarita E. Blanco
Associate Editor for Readership Rosario E. Bonoan-Dy
Opinion Editor Juan V. Mercy
News Editor Antonio T. Enriquez Jr. • Chief, Page One Operations Nelia B. Fajardo
Chief, News Desk Ruben R. Almendral
Assistant Chief, News Desk Dominador Jr. Armamento Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Jose F. Sonido III
Editor-in-Consultation Antonio Zumel
Chief Photographer Raul S. Sunglao
Art & Design Director Noel A. Vallarao

Board of Chairman Raul L. Locsin
President Alexander Pineda-Romualdez
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Bernardo R. Romero
Vice President for Advertising Philip B. Uy
Vice President for Info Tech and Ops Gary G. Lim
Vice President for Finance Jose H. Yulo Jr.
Advertising Director Rosario R. Encarnacion
AVP for Marketing Josefina S. Reynoso
Corporate Affairs Manager Edwin R. Salazar

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no copies of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.

Noynoy, Pacman, Pacmom in Oplan 2013

REMEMBER OPLAN EKSTRANIYO WEH? was exposed by then Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. back in the 1980s? It was the plan of President Ferdinand Marcos to declare martial law. No, not got wind of it and exposed it in the Senate.

How Noynoy's son, Sen. Noynoy Aquino, post-dated candidate, has managed to keep the exposed Oplan 2013 at the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday.

Wait a minute, was that binayuy? It certainly looked like him, thinning hair and all. And it certainly had his likeness, bulol and all.

What is Oplan 2013? Does nothing to do with the end of the world in 2012 or 2013. It has nothing to do with the movie "2012," either. Rather, it is a very happy happening at the Mom Museum on Nov. 28 and 29. That is why it is called Oplan 2013. Noynoy, Mommy Pacquiao, Pacman, Jinkee Pacquiao, other celebrities will be there—or at least people who look and walk like them.

What will Noynoy, Pacman, Pacmom et al. do there? Make people laugh their heads off and forget their troubles, what else. For it will be the famous reunion Nelly Sinpayorsyam, the movie's 18-minute faces (and voices), who will be impersonating the celebrities to entertain the audience. It's time to stop talking about Mommy Imelda, he's overexposed already. Talk about Hillbe Step again(she is cheap).

Remember, the show is on Nov. 28 and 29. That's only two days from now. Tickets may not last that long, it's at the Music Museum in Greenhills, in the evening.

But other Manny (Villar) also got lucky on the same day that Manny Pacquiao chased Miguel Cotto all over the ring in Las Vegas. The other Manny was finally able to convince Sen. Loren Legarda to be his No. 2 in next year's elections, after a three-hour private dinner in Makati.

The question now is, what will happen to Standing Campaign's Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) now that both its presidential (Sen. Chi) Escudero) and vice-presidential (Legarda) candidates have left it? Loren has emphasized that she would be NPC's vice presidential candidate. Does that mean she would be a guest candidate of Villar's KPP? Or will the KP and NPC coalesce?

What about Chi? He told me that he would announce on Nov. 13 whether or not he would continue to pursue his presidential quest. It is now Nov. 16.

Speaking of NPC, its mayoralty candidate in Quezon City is Rep. Annie Susano, who hailed Lubao. Except before Ralph Recto and Vilma Santos did, Lubao (Lungs) is beginning to look like the Biblical Egypt when Moses led the Hebrews in the original Exodus.

Susano will run against Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista and, if the signs are correct, former Rep. and GMA trouble-shooter Mike Defensor. The latter has been decorating the city with his unpopular attack, while selling the people only in "go out and register," is interpreted by many to mean "vote for me." Maybe he could write and sing with Rep. Eleanor Gaerlan. Dana is also reported to be planning to contest the mayoralty.

Which makes Susano happy. The more candidates there are, the better for her because her traditional, the 2nd district (Novaliches), has at least half of the voting population of QC and she has three votes locked up. The other candidates will have to share the votes in the rest of the city.

Susano was one of the three guests at Mrs. Jay's Kapihan (the third was Director Rolando Bautista of the National Capital Region Police Office) and she heard some of her plans for QC. Susano said she has some of her more ambitious plans: provide squatters with human settlements like housing projects, construct more schools, hospitals and health centers, provide more parks.

Susano also revealed that she has been elected atop the Asociasyon Mentorial Hospital composed from killing (once the hands of gravity land developers. The compound will remain a hospital and golf course.

As for Bautista, he contested the wrong impression that the police has no more jurisdiction over traffic in Metro Manila, especially Edsa and Commonwealth Avenue, and that it is the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) who is responsible for making traffic more smoothly. It is the mission of those vagabonds to direct traffic is the responsibility of the MMDA traffic enforcers and it has the policemen are out of it.

"Wrong," said Bautista. It is the duty and responsibility of regular policemen to direct traffic and arrest violators when traffic jams occur. He ordered the public to report directly to him police men who defy their duties.

Another notorious complaint against policemen is that during accidents, the drivers are sent to police headquarters for investigation which is sometimes is many kilometers away.

"Wrong again," said Bautista. "If the accident happens near a police community precinct, it should immediately take charge." He again asked the public to report to him any policemen who do not do their jobs.

I will meet with this report to Bautista about the police community precinct at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Tandang Sora, under the flyover, to QC. Traffic here is very usually because buses and jeepneys load and unload passengers here instead of the designated loading/unloading zones. (The MMDA banned the buses from there, but the drivers continually was widened but did not put them back.)

The brilliant can clearly be seen from the police precinct headquarters. Its unsupervised view down are of clear glass. But do you think any policemen bothers to enter the air-conditioned office to inspect under our arrogant traffic violators and sidewalk vendors? Of course not. Neither do the MMDA traffic enforcers.

Director Tinsday and MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando, please do something.

Pacquiao and Ali

MUHAMMAD ALI CLOWNED AROUND. Before the fight, he spouted jokes—or tried—poetry. "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee," he wasn't shy about advertising himself, shouting "I am the greatest," or saying things like "I predict to get out of a rain, I picked the 1st round."

But when he got into the ring, he let his fists do the talking. He was as fast with them as he was with his tongue. His style was swashbuckling, defying boxing wisdom. He let his hands down, sometimes he danced, sometimes he didn't, which confounded his opponents, and in his classic fight with George Foreman, he broke taboo by leaning against the ropes. But he won, brilliantly.

Manny Pacquiao does not sport poetry or self-serious himself. But he is not fourth-rate, when asked if he, or men who met in the ring. The first he does reasonably well, the second quite impressively. He has a good voice and likes to sing. Almost unbelievably, he had a concert lined up after his fight with Miguel Cotto. Pay your ol' nerve? Maybe. It's true, it did the trick.

Maybe ideally, it was the feeling of sheer invincibility Like Mike Tyson had before he got floored by Buster Douglas, like Foreman had before he got floored by Ali, and like Ali himself had before he got floored by the US government. The last, quite paradoxically and wonderfully, became Ali's greatest victory. He got up, and floored the US government. Deception for that same feeling of invincibility. He can't get tired. In his bout with Cotto, he probably worried more about how he would sing than how he would fight.

Then the contrast in the faces right from the start. When Pacquiao went out of the dressing, he was smiling broadly, enjoying himself. There was not a single hint of worry on his face. When Cotto did, he looked, well, sad. It wasn't exactly that he looked defeated, it was that doubt was written on his face.

When Pacquiao gets to the ring, he lets his fists do the talking. He is not fast with them as he is with discovering friends with generosity. His style is unorthodox, largely uncharacterized by footing wisdom. He lunges, he positions himself awkwardly, and in his fight with Cotto did the ropes a drops, that's true, brilliantly.

After his fight with Cotto, during the interviews, Pacquiao did two things. One, he advertised his new movie, claiming he is positive he has never featured for himself. "Watch it, it's the best," and, two, he sang. Quite the showman now, which also fits the epithet on Cotto's boxing hi, being in the money.

More than Ali fought, he would climb out of the ring looking as pretty (his word) as he did when he climbed into it. There were exceptions, such as when Buster Douglas let his guard drop and he had the 11th opponent in his grandest fight of all. Or such as when he fought Joe Frazier in the "Thrilla in Manilla," where he was just as ready to collapse as his opponent from dehydration, fatigue, and 15 rounds of punishment. "It was like death," he said afterward. "Closest thing to dying that I know of."

But you should see the other guy as they say. Frazier was a mess, one of his eyes so puffed up he couldn't see. Ali would marvel later on and say that if he'd been hit as many times as Frazier, he'd have quit long ago.

Alas, he did not. He continued to fight long past his prime, possibly for the glory of it, possibly for the money of it. He had ultimacy to pay. The signs of boxing didn't show on his face, but it registered on his brain. Not long after his retirement, he developed the shakes, which seemed cute in the Parkinson's disease. Today he can barely talk, though if more recent news are to go by, he still does, albeit slowly, albeit still silently. He is unique men have gotten closer, but he with and will have not. He has paid the price, and what a price to pay.

What times Pacquiao has fought, he would climb out of the ring as triumphant as when he climbed into it. Maybe the ham on his face hides some of the pallor—he now looks a bit like Roberto Duran, and like Duran, Hagler, Hearns, and Cotto at least can excuse he to the real moves de gracia, the hands of stone. Not so his opponents, who look like they've been questioned by a law enforcement of the al Qaeda. I myself received horrendously short haircuts, I thought, but he seemed to go to hospital, if at all.

Remember that for all the dimensions of its bloodletter, boxing remains a savage sport. In spite the glitzes, despite the presence of a referee to stop fights, despite the exiting back of the rounds to 12, boxing is still capable of maiming, brain-addling, and killing.

During his last fight, Pacquiao developed a small bleed for in an eye. It took a minor operation to remove it, and it was done only as a precaution. He would step on to announce how extremely a bandaged eye and a bandaged opponent in the latter bleeding of knuckle fighting bans—which bathed him in greater glory, a violent emerging from a boxing campaign. Without someone to subpoen to his ear, unlike the former congressmen clustering about the stricken Wiley, "All glory is fleeting," Ali indeed, "All glory comes with a price."

Pacquiao's next adversary will be his hardest, toughest, toughest to fight. The one adversary that has brought down many a swashbuckled champion. No, it's not Floyd Mayweather Jr. It's the same adversary Muhammad Ali fought and lost, it's the same adversary Michael Jordan fought and lost. The certainty of going down in history as the best fighter of one's era is nothing compared to the certainty of going out into a vortex of adoring fans, or forward comparisons, their heads of jubilation ringing in ears just loud enough to blood clot. The greatest always seem to have more lengthy than the past. There's always the lure of going further to beat the unbeatable foe.

The one called "One More Time."

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

Pacquiao and Pancho Villa

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

MOORE THE HISTORIC EUPHORIA OVER Manny Pacquiao's 12th round TKO of Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto turns into unexamined idolatry, let's stop at cold statistical data. Most Filipinos are slumbering into the Pacquiao euphoria mesmerizing. I can't put them because the man is already too overcrowded, and valorized beyond all precise logic, they are superhuman and add nothing to the tributes pouring on him.

Before he stepped into the ring, Pacquiao said, "This is the most important fight because if I win, I'll be making history for myself and my country." The man is historically unaware and politically correct statement.

Pacquiao's American trainer, Freddie Roach, could not wait for the verdict of history and crowned his protégé prematurely as "the greatest fighter of his era, for sure, 100 percent."

It is sufficient to say that Pacquiao made boxing history by winning his seventh title in seven weight divisions, and he Filipinos this measure because a Filipino boxer achieved the feat. The triumph on the ring came in a time when Filipinos badly needed to lift their morale, following the devastation of two storms and their plunge into a desperate search for any source of pride and strength which they can demonstrate to the rest of the world that their country can produce an extraordinary achievement.

Nations have built their pride on their success in sundays. The arenas on which to pursue opportunity without limitations is the athletic field, through epitomized by the Olympic Games or the World Cup in football. National pride is nurtured and finds expression in these athletic competitions.

Boxing is one of the few sports where Filipinos have excelled and made their mark, and so when Pacquiao fights, the whole country holds its breath in explosion of national pride, centered on the solitary achievement of a single individual. The backbone of our athletic competition in international games is so narrow that it is based on single individuals rather than on team games, such as football, basketball, swimming, or track and field events. Up to some point, we excelled in basketball, which we used to dominate in Asia, but we never left a mark in football, the sport of choice of most of the world, through which countries express their nationalism and pride to the fullest hand.

Thus for us, boxing has remained the solitary breeding ground for the rare celebration of athletic excellence, and has also become the traditional path for upward social and financial mobility for poor boys in the urban underclasses and the slums of urban neighborhoods.

How are prepared to claim that Pacquiao is now ready to inherit the mantle of Flash Elorde, who is widely considered as one of the greatest Filipino boxers of all time. He was the first Filipino boxing champion since Pancho Villa.

Pacquiao invites comparison with Pancho Villa. Born Francisco Guillermo in Negros Occidental in 1901, he took the name of Pancho Villa after the Mexican revolutionary leader. According to a blog by Antonio Villegas in "Filipino Komiks," Villa placed the Philippines on the map as the first Filipino Pyrrophyte in the world in the 1920s. He was considered "one of the greatest Asian breakers to step into the ring." The prestigious Ring Magazine ranked Villa as "one of the 100 Greatest Boxers of all Time."

In a match anticipated months in New York's Polo Grounds on June 18, 1933, royalty the blog, Villa defeated the British Jimmy Wilde for the world flyweight title in "one of the most exciting fights in boxing history." The blog describes the fight:

"Wilde started slow, while Wilde started fast, the seeing power punches that was meant to knock out the Filipino dapper.

"Villa defended successfully and threw some power punches of his own in retaliation, most of them landing and almost knocked down Wilde. In the second round and onwards, however, Villa started to display his connection attacking style, pursuing Wilde with punches from both hands. In the seventh round, Villa battered Wilde to state of helplessness, making him fall from down in the corner, ending the fight—and Wilde's career."

Villa returned to the Philippines in September 1934. In retirement, according to the blog, "Villa married into a political and economic dynasty in Malacañang Palace by then US Governor-General Leonard Wood. In world champion, "Villa influenced into his prison all the swank and swagger of the era and the whole country felt an electrifying pride in his rise from rags to riches, his bouts for the most magnificent stakes, his romantic life, his expensive automobiles and lush seaside base, his great business and bold stiff links, and regal servants... "The Filipinos adored his extravagance, treating him almost as their crowned king. For a time, Villa was the most beloved figure in the Philippines. Never before had the Filipinos been so impressed by the spirit that their roots had had become Our Champion of the World."

In 1923, Villa fought in a non-title bout with Jimmy McLarnin in Oakland, USA. While from a recent distraction of a wisdom tooth, Villa lost the decision. It was his last fight. It denied discovered an infection and rejected three more teeth. Villa ignored the dentist's instructions to rest and instead indulged in a week-long party. The infection worsened. He was rushed to hospital, he died on July 14, 1923, of Ludwig's angina, an outbreak of the dental cavity.

Villa died untimely death at the age of 29 broke the nation's heart," the blog says. "The funerals that possessed the masses during his funeral was the most feverish of its era. Filipinos openly wailed in the streets while their hero's casket was being taken to its destination."

Villa is a former Senate president and is considered to have a mighty political war chest. In fact, he was the first to have proclaimed his presidential ambition, in a citing of TV commercials that preceded those of his opponents. But it took him some time to find a running mate.

Legal obscurity or was spared in saying it was the presidency or bust, but some weeks back she publicly proclaimed her intention to run for vice president. The NPC was interested in allowing Sen. Chiz Escudero, who was seen as contesting the party's presidential nomination against Legarda, publicly left the party, saying he wanted to get away from "politics as usual."

Binay's Villar line-up is something quite a splash in the media not just with his ads but also with a string of hostile articles on his family and even his magnificent home. Legarda has deep roots in the media, but only in the former news anchor and host of sophisticated public affairs shows but has also gained extensive strong, dazzling her adeptness at projection and timing. Certainly, her interest and involvement in environmental issues, especially global warming long before "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" have sharpened her national profile and appeal.

Of course, there is also former President Joseph Estrada and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay. No one can doubt Erap's absolute image and his lingering appeal among the masses, but the question is whether he is excessively long encumbered, his political relevance fading. The message seems to be that he's had his time, and today is not the day for a comeback.

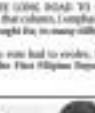
* * *

SO AT THE very least, it promises to be an entertaining campaign. By now, the major contenders have more or less carved out their niches in the political landscape. And given the strong show his chances of the line-up of contenders are not as well in the presidential contest), we can anticipate to be entertained and, it is hoped, enlightened as well.

Rights to vote

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



LAST FRIDAY, I DESCRIBED THE LONG ROAD TO SUFFRAGE, both globally and locally in that column, I emphasized how the right to vote had to be fought for, in many different contexts.

In the Philippines, this right to vote had to evolve, from the time of the Katipunan and the First Filipino Republic, aborted by the American occupation, to when the right was "granted" provided you were male, at least 21, owned property and were literate in Spanish and swore allegiance to the United States. I didn't mention that during the Marcos era, voting was an obligation, so you could be prosecuted for not voting. Today, voting as you're at least 18 and more or less of sound mind, you can vote.

Reflecting on our own situation, I realize that it has become more important to talk about the right, rather than the right, to vote. I'm referring to the many social, economic and political rights that need to be ensured if the right to vote is to be meaningful.

Elitism

Last week I mentioned that there has always been ambivalence about suffrage, I mentioned Plato, who did not trust ordinary citizens to decide on who should lead. Winston Churchill, a firm believer in democracy, also observed, "The best argument against democracy is a five minute conversation with the average voter."

Certainly, if you look over at so-called developed democracies like the United States, you wonder about the wisdom of suffrage with their share of political dynasties (both the father and both the son being the most recent) and celebrity presidents and governors.

In the Philippines, the upper classes endlessly complain about our elections being marked by guns, goons, gold and gloves, and tend to blame this situation on the poor, who are characterized as inept, corrupt, gullible. But that kind of analysis is not only condescending, it also fails to recognize a social and historical context to our current situation.

The right to vote is shaped by society and culture, with all its baggage from the past. For many years after the United States was founded, slaves and women could not vote. When the Americans took over the Philippines and extended suffrage to its new colony, they were still carrying their elitist and racist notions about voting, as we see from the beginning of this article. By setting all these conditions on voting, the Americans actually strengthened traditions in the Philippines because it was mainly the ilustrado class, the landlord class, that could vote.

The guns, goons and gold are part of that backdrop. There are still many parts of the country where people have no choice but to vote for the most powerful landlord running warlord in town. To face reality that landlord is to court the wrath of that landlord family. Nothing is developmental, I have seen entire barangays neglected—as school supplies, no roads, no windmills or conditions for the health center—for three, six or nine years simply because the wrong captain (or the mayor for the mayor's relatives) during the last election.

Fortunately, that kind of perverse control is diminishing, albeit all too slowly. We should, however, be concerned about how the feudal imprint takes other forms of distortions in our elections. Foremost, we continue to look at elections not as an occasion to reflect broadly but in choose persons. I am using the example from of patron with a stronger emphasis on "personizing" relationships, i.e., a person who may seem benevolent but actually controls you, and keeps you in a dependency relationship.

It's a very loaded concept, exactly like the relationship between a patron and a client, except that in politics, it has been expanded tenfold because the patron is known as a "hero" of the province, mayor or even barangay captain. Under how a person is reduced to the status of a child) means special access for your needs. Election then becomes a way for a patron but then to prove his mettle as, and I apologize in the lesson, an obedient lapdog, hence treating the campaign trail to enthusing the votes by hook or crook.

Fiesta, transactions

It is also this feudal background that transforms our elections into grand fiestas. It is a time for entertainment, courtesy of the politicians. (No forget, of course, that the expense to actually donate from taxpayers' money, or for candidates who don't have the money that they will eventually collect from us if they win.)

The politicians don't just bring in celebrities to perform but will themselves go through the song-and-dance routines. The bombastic speeches, the mud-slinging, are all often more for show, generating more love than light. It enhances electricity for people who have come for local performances (or at least will host politicians while they parade).

Again, I must warn against attributing all this to gullibility or interest on the part of our voters (and "the poor"). Precisely because we are so feudal, the poor and the usually powerless have had to learn to navigate around our structures. Elections actually open windows of opportunity for negotiations. A book published several years ago, "In Seeking Elections" (the title is intentional), to highlight the ways it do unless elections) showed how voters learn to time their demands around elections, to ask for roads, social services (and I'm found out, even basketball courts).

Unfortunately, the lessons that politicians can reinforce the feudal aspect of elections, or what's sometimes referred to as transactional politics. Worse, it seeps actually allow the more deserving politicians to thrive, the ones who know how to time their benevolent attitude elections. Showing enmities in the manner but making sure there's adequate exposure (e.g., the politician who is seen distributing rice and pushes with their photographs (get the picture?).

When I talked about Philippine elections last week with the Museum Foundation of the Philippines, I actually ended by saying I was still optimistic. I do worry though that our attempts to reform the system, with its emphasis on educating the people, may be too much of a burden. As I pointed out, the idea that we can "fix" the people (the enlightened) must convince the poor and to call their votes or to guard their votes. If we are serious about the right to vote, then we all have to work harder at ensuring that other rights are in place so Filipinos can vote without fear, without having to think of trade-offs and payoffs.

At the Museum Foundation talk, I went into the need to evolve a system that holds politicians accountable, not for rhetorical promises but for programs and principles, from the day they are sworn into office. As we move into election season, I will write more about how we might build this system.

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Glitz in the campaign

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I'D RATHER MISS THIS CHRISTMAS' COMMENTARY on the "defection" of former Nacionalista Governor Raffy Rocio and Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto was that it was my entertainment writer Rafael Siso-Iñigo, not my beat friend Siso-Iñigo, who broke the news. The pair had left the administration party Lakas-Kampi for the Liberal Party, joining presidential candidate Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and his running mate, Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II.

Indeed, it seemed that the links between politics and show business are getting ever stronger, with those business personalities multiplying and carving ever stronger profiles in the lineups of political parties.

In the LP alone, majority has nearly doubled since by way of his sister Kris, who has parlayed her not inconsiderable influence in the life to promote her brother's candidacy. The most obvious manifestation of this is the cast of personalities appearing in Noynoy's TV ads, from the likes of both Kapuso and Kapamilya networks joined by professional basketball players, courtesy of course of Kris' husband, James Yap.

Mar Roxas has showbiz connections of his own, although the now-bride Korina Sanchez is more a media personality than a performer. But Korina makes no bones about her commitment to pushing Mar's candidacy, including using a TV spotted on their recent wedding ceremony to promote her husband's political career.

So, in a way, the entry of Ralph and Vilma is simply par for the course. Sh Santos-Recto, it must be noted, had been busily touted as a possible running mate for Gilbert Teodoro in preparation for the presidential reprisedly, and then with finality when she bolted the administration party. Ralph Recto adds a touch of experience and credibility to the 27 senatorial line-up, while Vilma will undoubtedly add luster to the ticket, as she is the most popular senatorial candidate not just here but also Quezon Province, where her husband Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla is a stalwart of the Liberals.

* * *

MOT to be mistaken: Teodoro has found himself a running-mate with solid showbiz pedigree—former Festival Media Board chairwoman Edu Manzano, a TV host and actor who is also, incidentally the father of Luis, son of Vilma Santos. (We can play this game of "six degrees of separation" all summer.)

Manzano is likeable enough and has already racked up political experience: as Makati city mayor (he lost a subsequent bid for mayor) and then in his post at the GSIS. Here, he took on video pirates and even, most curious, voting instead down the sales of DVDs of child pornography.

Before joining Teodoro, Manzano was said to be talking to LP leaders about joining their senatorial ticket. In fact, LP officials confirmed to being taken by surprise by Manzano's decision, which directs, at least, that despite his many lame lips proliferating in the entertainment and political boxes, Manzano's camp knows how to keep their lips sealed.

In tasking Teodoro's offer, Manzano parodied over other entertainment figures, such as Senator Ex-actly, but also Sen. Bong Revilla, not to mention Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno (who reminds me constantly of former GS Vice President Dick Cheney) and MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando. Obviously, Villar's promises and his handlers are banking on Manzano's well-known persona and show his appeal, an attempt to offset the glitz image of the Noynoy-Mar tandem.

* * *

SGT quite a "showbiz" cluster but marked by similar logic is the new pairing of Sen. Manny Villar and Sen. Loren Legarda. The partying not only brings the two powerful personalities together, but also marks the "cross-over" of environmentalism into mainstream political parties, the Nacionalista Party and the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC).

Villar is a former Senate president and is considered to have a mighty political war chest. In fact, he was the first to have proclaimed his presidential ambition, in a citing of TV commercials that preceded those of his opponents. But it took him some time to find a running mate.

Legarda only or was spared in saying it was the presidency or bust, but some weeks back she publicly proclaimed her intention to run for vice president. The NPC was interested in allowing Sen. Chiz Escudero, who was seen as contesting the party's presidential nomination against Legarda, publicly left the party, saying he wanted to get away from "politics as usual."

Binay's Villar line-up is something quite a splash in the media not just with his ads but also with a string of hostile articles on his family and even his magnificent home. Legarda has deep roots in the media, but only in the former news anchor and host of sophisticated public affairs shows but has also gained extensive strong, dazzling her adeptness at projection and timing. Certainly, her interest and involvement in environmental issues, especially global warming long before "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" have sharpened her national profile and appeal.

Of course, there is also former President Joseph Estrada and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay. No one can doubt Erap's absolute image and his lingering appeal among the masses, but the question is whether he is excessively long encumbered, his political relevance fading. The message seems to be that he's had his time, and today is not the day for a comeback.

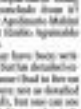
* * *

SO AT THE very least, it promises to be an entertaining campaign. By now, the major contenders have more or less carved out their niches in the political landscape. And given the strong show his chances of the line-up of contenders are not as well in the presidential contest), we can anticipate to be entertained and, it is hoped, enlightened as well.

Seeing heroes as ordinary people

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



LIST HEROES SET BOOKS. THIS WILL BE MY last column on Antonio Luna and Boni and continue for 2009.

Two decades ago, I went over Luna's papers and other personal effects. Nobody was minding these at the time because they did not seem as valuable as his paintings, drawings, watercolors and sketches. There I was in the old Bureau of Public Works building at Intramuros, Manila, the area that Pedro de Vera and I known that all these historical sources would literally go up in smoke are would have photocopied everything. As they say in Filipino, "Sana bali ang paginip." (Regret comes in the end.)

I was an undergraduate student on all courses at the time, so I was surprised by what I uncovered. He knew Antonio Luna as a general during the second phase of the Philippine Revolution and the Philippine-American War, but I was not prepared to see his school notebooks in English and, one could say almost feminine, penmanship. I couldn't imagine this man whose bad temper was legendary and behavior unconventional in 1899. As a student in the Ateneo de Manila, I was told that Luna was a genius who had to use calligraphy before he was sure of his shoulders, he had poured through a microscope and drawn organelles in his notebooks. It is not until because that he was a shooter by training and took courses in medicine in Europe. He was known to his pioneering research on sawfly from the Pasig River, mosquitoes as carriers of malaria, and even the purity of carabao milk. These papers made Luna scholar, and provided him and Rizal to be doctors references on hand to base treatment hypothesis.

Old hippos after disagree with my presentation of heroes because they insist on saintly perfect, impeccable lives. Luna was a genius, but he was also a man of his time, with all the faults and foibles of his age. I believe in the importance of Filipinos embracing their past and seeing their heroes plain, as ordinary people like themselves, because it is in their humanity that we appreciate our own capacity for greatness.

Looking at Luna's flowing penmanship made me ask: If he were to submit a handwritten application to a human resources department today, what would the evaluators conclude from it? Would Luna be considered over Apolinario Mabini who had very small writing, or Emilio Aguinaldo who had the worst penmanship?

Luna's student notebooks may have been written contrary before I was born, but his detailed expenses were relevant some because that is free on allowance, too. His expenses were set as detailed or interesting compared to Rizal's, but one can see how he spent his money in 1893. He records a ledger in the notebook, but Luna's regular expenses covered food, transportation and rent.

Tuesday 16: Arroz (rice) (5 cavans), desayuno (breakfast) (L23); barbero (L1; barber's fee); comida (lunch and food) (L1.50); carne (beef) (L40); carne (L30); food (L1.25).

Miercoles 17: (Wednesday) desayuno (L1.50); carne (L40); carne (L30); arroz (L8.00); comida (L2.50).

Jueves 18: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Viernes 19: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Sabado 20: almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Domingo 21: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Lunes 22: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Martes 23: (Tuesday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Miercoles 24: (Wednesday) desayuno (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Jueves 25: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Viernes 26: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Sabado 27: (Saturday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Domingo 28: (Sunday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Lunes 29: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Martes 30: (Monday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Miercoles 31: (Wednesday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Jueves 1: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Viernes 2: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Sabado 3: (Saturday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Domingo 4: (Sunday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Lunes 5: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Martes 6: (Monday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Miercoles 7: (Wednesday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Jueves 8: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Viernes 9: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Sabado 10: (Saturday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Domingo 11: (Sunday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Lunes 12: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Martes 13: (Monday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Miercoles 14: (Wednesday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Jueves 15: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Viernes 16: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Sabado 17: (Saturday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Domingo 18: (Sunday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Lunes 19: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Martes 20: (Monday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Miercoles 21: (Wednesday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Jueves 22: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Viernes 23: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Sabado 24: (Saturday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Domingo 25: (Sunday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Lunes 26: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Martes 27: (Monday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Miercoles 28: (Wednesday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Jueves 29: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Viernes 30: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Sabado 31: (Saturday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Domingo 1: (Sunday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Lunes 2: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Martes 3: (Monday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Miercoles 4: (Wednesday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Jueves 5: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Viernes 6: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Sabado 7: (Saturday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Domingo 8: (Sunday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Lunes 9: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Martes 10: (Monday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Miercoles 11: (Wednesday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Jueves 12: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Viernes 13: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Sabado 14: (Saturday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Domingo 15: (Sunday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Lunes 16: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Martes 17: (Monday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Miercoles 18: (Wednesday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Jueves 19: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Viernes 20: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Sabado 21: (Saturday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Domingo 22: (Sunday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Lunes 23: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Martes 24: (Monday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Miercoles 25: (Wednesday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Jueves 26: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Viernes 27: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Sabado 28: (Saturday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Domingo 29: (Sunday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Lunes 30: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Martes 31: (Monday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Miercoles 1: (Wednesday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Jueves 2: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Viernes 3: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Sabado 4: (Saturday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Domingo 5: (Sunday) desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Lunes 6: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Martes 7: (Monday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Miercoles 8: (Wednesday) desayuno (L1.50); almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Jueves 9: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Viernes 10: desayuno; almuerzo (L1.50); comida (L45); pregunta (L1); L50; arroz; type of cena (L1.50); cuenta (L1.20); coche (L3.00); coffee (L0.40); coche (L0.40).

Sabado 11: (Saturday) desayuno; almuerzo (

FULL 20% SENIORS DISCOUNT
500 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

THE GENERICS PHARMACY

MABISA na, MATIPID pa !!!

LOWER THAN MRP (SRP)

GENERIC NAME	Leading Brand	TGP
AMLODIPINE BE 5mg tab	22.00	6.50
AMOXICILLIN 500mg cap	10.75	3.50
ASCORBIC ACID 120ml syr	116.00	48.00
ASCORBIC ACID 500mg tab	3.85	1.60
CARBOCISTEINE 500mg cap	10.20	2.50
LOPERAMIDE 2mg cap	14.00	1.30
MEFENAMIC ACID 500mg cap	27.75	1.80
METFORMIN 500mg tab	11.00	1.70
METOPROLOL 50mg tab	14.50	2.60
PARACETAMOL 500mg tab	2.90	0.60

- William D. Torres, Ph.D.
Consultant
(Former BFAD Director)

MOST PROMISING FRANCHISE OF THE YEAR -PHIL FRANCHISE ASSO.
FRANCHISE NOW P680K-P800K CALL I/FRANCHISE 634-3717/635-6005
MAIN BRANCH: 459 QUEZON AVE COR BANAWE ST Q.C. 712-7777

690 LOCATIONS AT WWW.THEGENERICSPHARMACY.COM
NATIONWIDE HIRING: LICENSED PHARMACIST P14,000 (MIN)

RP's vulnerability to climate change

LETTERS

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE HEINZ ITEM titled "For low climate change, RP to urge rich nations" (Inquirer, 11/06/07).

The report stated that "Secretary Heherson Alvarez, presidential adviser on global warming and climate change, has been tasked by President Macapagal-Arroyo to lead the delegation from the Philippines to the climate change summit in Copenhagen in December" and that Senator Loren Legarda, representing the Senate, "would push for efforts for climate change adaptation fund in Copenhagen for purposes of rehabilitation and reconstruction of disaster victims, reforestation and implementation of environmental laws."

In response to the report, I would like to elaborate in terms of per unit of land area, South Korea, Japan, China, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam are emitting carbon dioxide more than the Philippines (Korea, 10.2x; Japan, 18.4x; China, 3.3x; Malaysia, 3.2x; Thailand, 2.9x; and Vietnam, 2x). All together, their total carbon dioxide emission represent 11 percent of that of the world. The national carbon gas is absorbed by the atmosphere of each country. But since the emission spreads evenly to the atmosphere of the neighboring countries, that to-be-legislated law is more regional and finally the globe's, each country regardless of the amount of carbon it emits ends up with the same concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide, which is now at the critical level.

Such data is the basis of a disastrous climate change. But since those countries have higher uncovered emission per unit area and much lower population, poverty incidence than the Philippines, they are better equipped to adapt to climate change while the latter is the most vulnerable.

The Philippines is the only country, at least in Asia, that has a law on climate change. Still it has 38 Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) projects registered with the United Nations in line with the Kyoto Protocol, it has many environmental projects and it has good environment practices by businesses. All these things have earned the Philippines the title of "the most environment-friendly" from the 2005 Asian Thirteen International Business Report.

Ironically while the Philippines is the most environment-friendly, it is the most vulnerable to climate change. This scenario gives former Alvarez and former Legarda, as well as the whole campaigning for good governance, the moral high ground in asking for assistance and support from rich countries, including countries for their advocacy to enable the country to effectively adapt to climate change.

—EDMUND SORREL
edsorrel@yahoo.com

Ignorance is Abu Sayyaf's dream for Sulu residents

WHAT COULD WE EXPECT FROM THE ABU Sayyaf?

There's only one word that describes the Abu Sayyaf and its supporters. They are "ignorant," and there's no need to tell the discerning that can lose dear for them.

Recently, the abu Sayyaf brutally killed a public school principal, Gabriel Canimaon, who was unarmed, defenseless and innocent harm to anyone. He was gunned down by the Abu Sayyaf. I do believe that Canimaon' self-imposed mission was to educate children in the island of Sulu. But he was stopped from fulfilling this dream by the Abu Sayyaf. These terrorists have chosen to choose that duty do not want the people of Sulu, or the next generations, to be educated by sowing fear among teachers in Sulu and not by provisions. The Abu Sayyaf and their supporters are driving away teachers who are willing to help their children, relatives and friends to learn how to read, write and become literate and contribute to the 21st generation. The terrorists want their residents of Sulu to remain ignorant forever.

—ISABEL I. SIGUERAS,
Grade 1 teacher,
Sambwanga City
(sabel.sussan@yahoo.com

Not just an evolution. But a
Total KARAOKE Revolution!
WOW! PREMIUM
PRO WIRELESS MTV
2010 Edition (THR 3200R)
Sound Quality like no other!
You've got the WOW Power!
More Songs!
More Videos!
More Powerful!
More Personal!
Latest songs!
More togetherness, more joy, more fun! WOW! Simply Unbeatable!
WOW PHILIPPINES!

Escudero's resignation misunderstood

SEN. FRANCISCO "CHIZ" ESCUDERO'S RESIGNATION from the nationalist Senate's Coalition (NPC) is best to those who cannot seem to rise above their obvious bias for other presidential bets.

While there are those like Commando Ke Quirra and Manolo Quezon III, who at least recognized and discussed the significance of the senator's indictment of the country's party system, others—mainstream media—chose like Jaime Gandiaterra Lorenz, Jr. (even TV/Bill who either fail to grasp the matter of Chiz's departure from his party or who choose to interpret this as a move that denigrates the senator while praising their candidate of choice.

Gandiaterra chides Chiz for "shocking our party system, without which, the former says, "there is no long-term liability and accountability for any group for the actions of a candidate who runs with the party's support." This debate of the party system hinges primarily on textbook definitions of political concepts, which is far from the reality in this country. For instance, despite the unpopularity of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the issues hounding her, a majority of our citizens voted without regard for their local candidates' party affiliation—they turned their decisions on personalities, not on party platforms, in effect filling the House of Representatives with administration allies.

Ironically, Sen. Heherson Alvarez benefits from the same "unfair advantage" which, Gandiaterra says, we have turned the party system, as it is true likely that the Apolitic name and the show-biz personalities wearing yellow shirts—not the Liberal Party, its ideology, or its roster of candidates—that will determine his bets in most party polls.

On the other hand, Gandiaterra's assertion that Chiz's independence from a political party "reveals an ambition to be the sole decider of the fate of the Filipino people"—captures a great understanding of the senator's motivations stated in his resignation speech. "Kailangan po kasama kayo. Hindi pwede kaming sa ako lamang mauna, dapat pati kayo mauna. Hindi pwedeng ako lang pabagi ang sinabi, dapat kayo rin ang magsabing magsimula."

How Gandiaterra can insist that this approach is diametrically opposed to Aquino's "complacent consensus" and "I won't do anything without consulting the people" approach is beyond me. If anything, by resigning from the NPC and holding himself accountable directly to the country's electorate, Chiz gives real meaning to the concept of "people empowerment."

The debate as to who truly represents the interests of the people will no doubt go until May 2010. Rather than focusing on the personalities, however, the debate would be more instructive and productive if it focused on the candidates' positions on issues affecting the Filipino people (e.g., wage increases, pork barrel abolition, more funding for AFIA, genuine reforms, and bigger education budget).

—EGON, 8TH FL. Unit 801, Charleston Place, SSP Building, 34 Aurora Blvd. cor. Annapolis St., San Juan City

Dodi Puno's shocking abuse of power

I AM A FILIPINA WHO RESIDES in Spain and is entitled to a Spanish national. The Filipino community here follows the news back home closely through www.inquirer.net.

I am writing to express my opinion on the court ruling in Cebu. I am very shocked that only one person was given power over billions of pesos of road user's tax. It is one not surprised to has Rodolfo "Dodi" Puno abused his power.

Of course, he immediately protected the distribution of the license. But it is shocking that he went as least protected billions.

My topic is the charges of Sen. William Defensor-Santiago "misuse of her pork barrel funds" against her by his brother, Land Investment Secretary Rosario Puno.

It's reading the issue. I'm shocked just stunned the official accusations of the Commission on Audit.

—GERARDO MEZA,
geraldmezaa@yahoo.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, China Banking Corporation Building, corner Yuchengco and Muralla Streets, City of Manila) or send a fax to Nos. 897-4593, 897-4594, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Talks start for richest fight

From page A1

about fighting another fighter, they then should just come out and say it. Manny Pacquiao doesn't say anything directly about fighting me because he might just know it's not a fight he can win."

Mayweather's challenge comes just days after Pacquiao's stunning systematic demolition of Puerto Rican champ Miguel Cotto in Las Vegas.

After a close first couple of rounds, Pacquiao (50-3-2, 38 KOs) switched to his up-tempo style and pummeled Cotto for several rounds before the referee stepped in and stopped the one-sided slaughter.

The victory validated new Ring consistent World Boxing Organization welterweight champ Pacquiao as the greatest Asian fighter in history. It also helped raise his status, along with Mayweather's, as two of the best current pound-for-pound fighters in boxing.

It was also the seventh world title in as many weight classes for Pacquiao, something even that Mayweather cannot claim.

'Just step up to the plate'

"Tell Manny Pacquiao to be his own man and stop letting everyone, including his loudmouth trainer [Freddie Roach], talk for him," Mayweather said.

"I am my own boss, speak for myself and tell it like it is. If Manny Pacquiao wants to fight me, all he has to do is step up to the plate and say it himself," he added.

Pacquiao's promoter Bob Arum wants to make a deal, but he hopes egos don't get in the way.

"All you have to know is that my fighter and his trainer Freddie Roach have gone on record saying they're happy to fight Mayweather," said Arum who used to promote Mayweather. "Hopefully we'll be able to put this together. From our side, we're willing."

In his last fight, Mayweather decimated Mexico's Juan Manuel Marquez in Septem-ber. Before that, the American boxer took a rare year hiatus from boxing. He has a reputation of being someone that is difficult to deal with.

"Maybe I prefer not to deal with him, but if your fighter wants a fight, you deal. Mayweather is not one of my favorite people and I'm sure I'm not one of his. What difference does that make?" Arum said.

Pacquiao has said he is considerable fighting at the welterweight (147 pound) division and will like to do it again.

Money favored over Floyd

Contrast to Las Vegas already are taking bets on who will win if Pacquiao and Mayweather ever get into the ring.

Pacquiao, coming off his dominating win over Cotto, opened as an 8-5 favorite as sports books operated by Station Casinos, and it didn't take long for bettors to take a side.

Several $100,000 bets were put down on Mayweather, forcing the line down to 7-5 in the early going, said Art Manzitchi, the casino operator's vice president of sport's book operations.

"It's been pretty decisive in the early going," Manzitchi said. "I think I made the line a little too high but that's the nature of the business."

Manzitchi said he made Pacquiao the favorite based largely on the public perception of his big win over Cotto. Most of the early bets, he said, came from professional handicapper, who thought the line was too high.

Pacquiao told The Associated Press last month he didn't think Mayweather wanted to fight him, and criticized the undefeated fighter for fighting too defensively and not trying to entertain fans.

Richest ever fight

After the Cotto fight, Roach said that Pacquiao would be more than happy to fight Mayweather, but that Mayweather wasn't going to discuss the terms of the fight.

Talks will likely be different, especially when it comes to what percentage of the revenues each fighter would receive.

The fight, though, has the possibility of becoming the richest ever and many is betting anyone that there is far too much money to be made for the fight not to happen.

"I think that's the fight the world wants to see," Roach said. "But if Floyd wants a 60-40 split [of the purse] he's not going to get it."

Assuming the fight can be made, it would likely take place next May.

Las Vegas casinos would have the inside track on landing the bout, but there has been speculation that it could go somewhere like the new Dallas Cowboys stadium or even Yankee Stadium.

Any bets made on the fight will be refunded if it is not held by the end of 2010. Reports from AFP and AP

BOXING'S pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao warms up for the crucial before the weigh-in for his bout against Miguel Cotto at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Nov. 13 in Las Vegas, Nevada. AFP

UNIQUE INTERNATIONAL
Digital Solutions Division
531-4267 • 532-2709 • 533-5528
533-5320 • 532-4578 • 533-9776

100% WATERPROOF
100% PROTECTION
FlexSeal
FlexSeal Roof
GREEN SEAL
2520531

SAMSUNG
When your life is healthier,
imagination lives
www.samsung.com/ph

BIG SIS Grace Daya, 9, who attends preschool, also attends to her two brothers, Manny, 6, a polio victim, and Elmer, 3, while their parents sit near here in the mountainside village of Parac, Pampanga.

Street kids' rescues are really arrests

Homepage A1

he said.

Inscriptio, who lives in Livestrua, Manila, is one of the estimated 250,000 children who play, earn a living, or live in the Philippines' dangerous streets.

Authorities conduct periodic sweeps in an attempt to solve the problem.

But child rights advocates claim that these "rescues" are actually "arrests," and that street children are merely sent to meet the rescue teams' "quota" before they are released back to the streets.

Escapees said he was eventually "rescued" 12 times. A 13-year-old boy pegged the number of times he was "rescued" at an amazing 59—all to no apparent effect.

Worse, here is often used on many of the children during "rescues," and sometimes they are sexually abused, according to a study sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

The study, produced by the nongovernment organization Bahay Tuluyan, was launched yesterday at the Heritage Hotel as the world marked the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Commissioner on Human Rights (CHR) Chair Leila de Lima delivered the keynote speech.

'Sagip' or 'Huli'?

Unicef country representative Vanessa Tobin described the study as "very important."

Titled "Sagip or Huli? Rescue of Street Children in Caloocan, Manila, Pasay and Quezon City" it read in part:

"Rescued children face a number of violations [of] their most basic rights, both as humans and as children, throughout nearly all stages of the rescue operation.

"Rescue operations as currently practiced in [the four cities] are failing to protect children from abuse and exploitation and sometimes exposing them to those ... As independent complaints mechanisms is not available or accessible to rescue children.

"Rescue operations are frequently carried out independently, indiscriminately and for reasons other than child protection. The best interests of the children are often secondary to other concerns."

Also contributing to the study, researchers are "frequently unclear about their objectives" and therefore "use inappropriate interventions techniques."

"This unnecessarily criminalizes, stigmatizes and traumatizes children," it said.

Varied reasons

For the study, 599 street children and 144 "rescuers" from Manila, Quezon City, Caloocan and Pasay were interviewed.

All the children were on the streets at the time of the interviews, indicating "no significant change in their situation," Bahay Tuluyan official Catherine Scott said.

Said Tobin: "Children end up in the streets for variety of reasons. Sometimes, because they've been abused at home. Sometimes, parents are unable to provide for them and they need to work to survive. Sometimes, because of peer pressure.

"For those reasons, they can end up associated to street gangs, get involved with drug subwork, drinking alcohol, taking illegal drugs, drawn to crime, violence, sexual abuse. Often, they end up injured, exploited, abused or killed."

Tobin said street children passed a challenge not only to the Philippines but also to other countries.

She said the actual number of street children in the Philippines was not known.

"My think is: 250,000, with 50,000 of them highly visible. The problem is greater within Manila," Tobin said.

Numbers

Scott said 83 percent of the street kids interviewed said they were dragged or herded into vehicles when they were "rescued."

She added that:

✦ 24 percent said they were "grabbed" and 20 percent said they "voluntarily went along."

✦ 42 percent said the authorities abused them, despite a clear policy against abuse.

✦ 35 percent said they were hurt, 9 percent said they were helped, and another 9 percent said they were cured by.

✦ 15 percent "consented" to the "rescue," 24 percent did not, 61 percent consented that they could do nothing.

Scott said the rescuers came from various agencies—the Metro Manila Development Authority, Department of Social Welfare and Development and its local counterparts, barangays, and police.

She said 56 percent of the "rescuers" did not introduce themselves to the children, and only 53 percent of the latter said their "rescuers" were in uniform.

"The children said they were beaten and their money or belongings were either taken or destroyed. Some were crushed into going with rescuers and said, 'We'll take you to Jollibee,'" Scott said, adding:

"Others were naturally assaulted or inappropriately touched."

Weapons

Only 1 percent of the children said the "rescuer" was explained to them, Scott said.

This could be because some of the rescuers carried weapons, contrary to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, she said, adding that 60 percent carried batons, 15 percent, guns; and 18 percent, handcuffs.

"This was interesting because the majority of the rescuers said they had a policy of not using force during rescues and that they had an understanding of [the UN convention]. But this was contradicted by the presence of weapons during rescue," Scott said.

She said 45 percent of the "rescued" kids were taken to Jose Fabella Center in Manila, and others to the shelters of their local governments.

"Some of the children reported that as soon as they arrived, they were released. This gave the impression that the rescuers were just filling quotas," Scott said.

Overcrowding

The kids usually stayed in the shelters for a week. But they had to deal with overcrowding, inadequate bedding, no separate quarters, and "sleeping on the concrete floor," according to Scott.

She said there was a general lack of clothing and sanitation.

"The children had concerns about the quality and quantity of their food. There were serious allegations of mistreatment and abuse," she said.

"They were released when they presented their birth certificate or were identified by their parents. Some paid money. Some exchanged sexual favors."

But after the children are released, many if not most of them return to the streets.

Scott said 38 percent of the children interviewed said they had been rescued "more than three times."

"Four percent said they were rescued so many times they could not remember how many ..." she said.

Scott said that in October, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed serious concern over "the high number of children who live in the streets."

"The Committee noted the lack of systematic and comprehensive strategy And they are further concerned by the rescue operations conducted in various areas of Manila," she said.

Detention prohibited

CHR Chair De Lima cited reports that some children in major cities had even fallen victim to death squads.

"In recent months, however, this has somewhat abated, maybe because it was public inquiry [into death squads]," she said.

The Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act prohibits jailing children "15 years and below" even in criminal offenses, De Lima pointed out.

Authorities usually claim curfew violations when rounding up street kids, she noted.

"They are not supposed to be treated as children in conflict with the law. They can be arrested but they should not be detained. Because of their young age and limited knowledge, they are not supposed to be treated as criminals," De Lima said.

"There should be intervention by the concerned authorities before the children are turned over to their parents," she said.

She conceded that because of lack of resources, "we have very few institutions that can cater to the needs of children, particularly street children."

Bongbong guest candidate of 3 parties

By Leila B. Salaverria

BONGBONG MARCOS

IT'S STRIKE SLIM PICKINGS or the namesake son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos is a sure-fire winner that at least three political parties have him as a guest candidate.

Marcos Junior, the Ilocos Norte representative nicknamed "Bongbong," is raising the possibility of joining a fourth group, the Liberal Party, if he vanished Senator Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, makes the first move in the election.

"I am waiting for a call. I'm like someone waiting for a date, waiting by the phone for that telephone call to come but that far, there has been none," Marcos told a news conference on Monday.

"But today, to be a guest candidate, you have to be invited ... There hasn't been a call but that's not really a great surprise," said Marcos, whose father slapped Noynoy's father, the late senatorial opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr., in jail upon the declaration of martial law in 1972. He was incarcerated for eight years.

The murder of the elder Aquino in 1983 sparked a national outrage that led to the dictator's ouster to a peaceful revolt three years later.

The Liberal Party already has nine senatorial candidates, and is looking at a stack of applications to complete its slate of 12 to be fielded in the May elections, officials said.

"Should I be invited, I would work with Aquino, Marcos and he saw no problem with this. He added that if invited by the LP that would put him to a good position because it would mean that the parties wanted him.

Asked if he would be on the opposition end of the presidential fight against Ilocos Sur governor Luis Singson following the death of his mother, former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the 32-year-old Marcos said he was undecided by this.

Remembered and loved

"All my life I've been benefiting from the good will of my father. Up until now I continue to benefit. His supporters, companions are still there ... We are lucky that our father is still remembered and loved," Marcos said.

Although the elder Aquinos and Marcoses were storied enemies, their children have not exhibited public animosities. The Marcos children were among those who visited the tombs of President Aquino.

Marcos officially reconciled with the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL), his father's party. But he is a guest candidate of the Nacionalista Party the Nacionalista People's Coalition and the Partido ng Masang Pilipino United Opposition, he said.

He said he would choose in three days which one of these parties the BBL would cooperate with. He said he had to choose one because it would be difficult to join all three during the campaign.

'I pity Gibo'

Marcos also said he would remain in the opposition, although he and his family have good affection for the administration's standard-bearer, former Defense Secretary Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro Jr., who has been sending out he overtures.

"I really pity Gibo. I regret that he has to be put in this situation. It's not his fault he's on the wrong side. We love him," said former Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, who joined her brother in the press conference.

Bongbong Marcos, whose family is battling to keep sequestered assets is allegedly aside during his father's arrangement rule, said the fight against corruption would be one of the things he would spearhead if and when he gets to the Senate.

It is the basic job of the government to prepare the country for the improvement of the global economy, and one aspect of this is fighting corruption, he said.

"Corruption has to be part of it. We have a lot of things because of corruption, such as smuggling in the importation of rice. It's institutionalized in the government. I don't think we have ever seen the institutionalizing of corruption to any administration except for this one," Marcos said.

Moral ascendancy

Asked if he thought he had the moral ascendancy to fight corruption, he said: "Of course. Even the worst critics of my father's administration would have to admit that something. Maybe there were a few who managed to do wrong ... but not like this where it's institutionalized, where the boss is ordering you to get something from this or that."

Imee Marcos also pointed out that she and her brother have served in the government for many years and have not been related with corruption.

"There's a great deal said about the Marcos legacy and I think the proof of the pudding is in Bongbong ... We have served for over a decade, unblemished by any kind of corruption issue," she said.

Lipa bishop lifts ban on 'Our Lady'

Homepage A1

Rose petals with holy images reportedly fell from the sky in last-last appearances in Quiffo, the Blessed Virgin identified herself "I am the Mediatrix of All Grace."

Although the veneration of Our Lady, Mediatrix of All Grace was permitted by then Bishop Alfred Vatican, the Philippine church hierarchy declared in 1951 that "there was no supernatural intervention in the reported extraordinary happenings including the shower of rose petals in Lipa," according to the website www.marymediatrix.mediatrixpress.com.

Withdrawn from the public

The website www.mirivale.homestead.com chronicles the events following the church decision: "Bishop [Wenceslao] and Mother Pilcoma were released of their jobs. The statue were ordered to destroy all materials connected with the apparitions. They burned [Camilla's] diary as well as the Mediatrix Pictures. The statue [of the Virgin Mary] was also ordered destroyed, but the nuns ... saved it from destruction. The convent was sealed, and the nuns could talk to no one outside of the convent."

Bishop Ruffino Santos, who became apostolic administrator after Ver, ordered that "no petals be given to anyone by the Lipa Carmelite community and the statue of Our Lady of Mediatrix be withdrawn from public view," the website said.

Despite the passing of the years and the suppression, the Carmelite nuns of Lipa as well as the Marian devotees who believe in the apparitions, remained hopeful that one day the case would be reopened and the apparitions declared authentic.

Many continued to believe and would go to the Carmelite monastery in Lipa to pray especially in the '90s.

Image displayed again

In 1992, Archbishop Mariano Gaviola granted permission to once again display the image of Our Lady, Mediatrix of All Grace. In 1993, he declared his personal conviction that the Lipa apparitions were worthy of belief, according to www.mirivale.homestead.com.

As the years went by, the ban seemed to have been disregarded as new proofs of the apparitions' authenticity were presented and accounts about the birth spot' high-handed suppressionism in 1949 were brought to light.

A request of the dozens of rose petals to fall on him occurred some years ago but the Carmelite nuns kept a low profile. Some people have petals in their possession.

In 2003, Aquino mustered the courage to lift the ban on Our Lady Mediatrix of All Grace with "increased activity and devotion" and plans to place statues representing the Virgin of Lipa, in every diocese, according to www.mirivale.homestead.com.

Official lifting of ban

When Aquino declared the official lifting of the 1951 ban on Nov. 12, it was the 62nd anniversary of the last of the series of apparitions to Camilla which occurred from September to November in 1948.

Aquino said: "My order on Sor Lucia merely a 'affirming' of God's order."

He also said that last month, he went to Rome to ask permission to search the archives for documents pertaining to the controversial apparitions but was not documents were found.

The Lipa Archbishop said that at 3 p.m. every 13th day of the month, the rosary is prayed by devotees from different towns in Batangas and from all over the country.

Novena

The devotion to Our Lady, Mediatrix of All Grace is acknowledged in all parishes in Laguna, and St. Rose Penn, parish priest of San Gabriel in San Pablo City.

"In our parish, we have a huge picture of the Virgin Mary to whom devotees offer prayers and novenas," he told the Inquirer in a phone interview late night.

The veneration of Our Lady has been promoted all over the country for more than a year now with a frenzied on the novena sold in Catholic bookstores, Rosas said.

Every year, some 1,000 copies of the novena are sold at the Daughters of St. Paul bookstore on EDSA Mall of Asia, the Inquirer learned.

"The Catholic bookstore is in the process of replenishing its copies from mid.

Ruling party hard put to field complete Senate slate

By TJ Burgonio

AFTER LOSING FORMER SOcioeconomic Planning Secretary Ralph Recto to the opposition and failing to persuade others to do the Cabinet to run, the ruling coalition may not be able to field a complete senatorial slate in the May elections, stalwarts said yesterday.

"We won't field a complete slate. Probably only eight to 10 candidates," Prospero Pichay, Lakas-Kampi-CMD vice president for accreditation and membership, said in a phone interview.

The party is proclaiming its standard bearers, former Interior Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr., his running mate ex-GMA Ivler Eda Rimando and the senatorial candidates at its convention tomorrow at the Philippine International Convention Center.

PRESIDENTIAL aspirations and concrete Sen. Noynoy Aquino and former Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. shake hands at GMA studio after taking their oaths and signing a pledge for clean and honest elections in May

Cabinet entries

Lakas-Kampi-CMD is eyeing to adopt former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada and Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, and field administration Senator Ramon Revilla Jr. and Lito Lapid, Pichay said.

Some Cabinet members, the possible senatorial candidates include Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, Finance Secretary Margarita Teves, Cabinet Secretary Silvestre Bello III and adviser on climate change Secretary Robredo Alvarez, according to the ruling party's deputy secretary general, Ray Roquero.

But apart from them, the party is also keen on fielding broadcast veteran journalist Ted Failon and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Roquero said.

"They will be part of the slate," he said by phone.

Teodoro Secretary Ace Durano of the Nacionalist People's Coalition has bagged self, but Lakas-Kampi-CMD is talking with his party mate, Congressman Bingo Board Chair and former Sen. Vicente Sotto III, to seek reelection under the administration banner, according to Roquero.

Caught flat-footed

Recto, a former senator, had been mentioned as among the administration's senatorial candidates. He delivered to the Liberal Party over the weekend.

"This has caught us flat-footed," said the party legal counsel, Secretary Real Gonzales.

Recto ran for reelection under the administration party in 2007 and lost.

Asked why there are a few names, especially among Cabinet members, Gonzales said the long gap between the Dec. 1 deadline for the filing candidacy and the start of the official campaign in February must have discouraged officials from running.

"That could be one factor," Gonzales admitted when asked if the public's low perception of the scandal-plagued administration could be a reason.

Manny gets Loren but not NPC support

Front page A2

presidential candidate, to run with anyone she desired, this did not mean the party needed Jalosjos' help.

The NPC lost a presidential candidate when Sen. Francis Escudero resigned from the party saying he did not want to be beholden to the coalition, the country's second largest with over 1,500 mayoralty-rank members.

"That decision of Senator Legarda should not bind the party because the party has its own decision," Mark Go campos said over the phone.

"There is no conflict in giving her that permission and the party's position," he said. However, he added that the NPC would remain behind Legarda's candidacy all the way.

He said that the coalition has yet to decide who it would support for president. The decision could come after the deadline for the filing of candidacy Dec. 1 or even next year, he said, adding many things could happen, given the volatile nature of politics.

Go campos dismissed suggestions that Villar would be getting the short end of the stick in getting Legarda. "The mere fact that Senator Villar is getting a vice president that already agreed with him is already enough advantage," he said.

As to the possibility of conflict or confusion arising during the campaign should the NPC back a rival candidate of Villar, he said the party would deal with such a scenario when it is before them.

He noted that there was still the chance that the NPC may not back any standard-bearer, and a decision like this would give rise to no conflict at all.

'Many things in common'

Villar and Legarda formally launched their tour-up at the Manila Central Shrine on Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City, which he bought last year.

Legarda, who had been standing for a president in coalition after Escudero backed out, agreed over dinner on Sunday to join Villar.

The former ABS-CBN star broadcaster had earlier joined calls in the Senate for the ouster of Villar for unorthodox behavior over alleged discrepancies in the double-funding and diversion of the C-5 Road network purportedly to favor his near real estate holdings—charges that the pooltop-turned-billionaire has vehemently denied.

Asked about this, Villar said, "nothing statements go well with [Legarda's] sweet words for me like a campaign [material]."

He said that while he and Legarda had taken conflicting positions on issues, he had nothing but admiration for her dedication and passion.

"We share many things in common," Legarda declared in her opening remarks vowing "a new beginning for the Filipino nation."

"We have forged an alliance not out of political expediency, nor to reach high office and pass or for its own sake, but to catalyze change that will renew the nation forward," she said.

Waiting for egg to hatch

Responding to criticism that it had taken him too long to decide on a running mate, Villar said: "Good things come to those who wait. After all, you get the chicken not by smashing it but by waiting for the egg to hatch."

Villar said some of his critics were asking why he had chosen Legarda. "My answer: why not?" he said to the delight of the crowd.

"Our team-up is founded on and solidified by our common advocacies such as poverty alleviation, climate change mitigation and environment rehabilitation, and protection of our migrant workers which we have been passionately pursuing."

He said Legarda "has overwhelmed and represents my ideals and visions for the country and our people who long to get up from the twin scourge of poverty and underdevelopment."

Because for his managerial skills developed from hard work and perseverance amid poverty, Villar is an advocate of the rights of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

He has organized and assisted 35th distressed OFWs, mostly from the Middle East, since last year Villar started his OFW advocacy 10 years ago while still in the private sector.

'A very interesting race'

At the same time, the NP president continues to focus on combating climate change, raising tree-planting projects, river cleanup drives, and other environmental endeavors. He has planted over one million trees.

Legarda is an environmentalist who was recently appointed by the United Nations as champion of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the Asia-Pacific region.

She is also the founder of the Luntiang Pilipinas Foundation, which advocates environmental awareness. Through the years, the foundation has supervised the construction of forest parks and the planting of two million trees nationwide.

Sen. Edgar Ramos, vice presidential candidate of the Liberal Party, welcomed Legarda's entry into the fray. "Finally, the senator found a home in Senator Villar .... We can expect the vice presidential race to be very interesting," he said.

Bid to clear Villar in Senate C-5 probe derailed

Front page A2

ENRILE

ZUBIRI

LACSON

MADRIGAL

According to Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri, Enrile was "badly hurt" by the resolution that supposedly "absolves" Villar of any wrongdoing in the Senate hearings in ratifying on the regularity of the C-5 extension project.

It also declared that the senators behind the resolution proceeded to the hearings and found nothing with which to hold Villar liable for disorderly behavior that there was no discussion on the evidence studied.

Before the resolution was tackled on the floor, Lacson told reporters that he had spoken with Enrile and that the latter thought of resigning as Senate president early yesterday because of the purported "rollcoup" to his leadership.

"His impression was that with the 12 signatures, it was one signature away from reaching the Senate presidency," Lacson said.

A Senate president needs the vote of confidence of 13 of the 23 senators.

Enrile thought of resigning instead of being ousted, according to Lacson.

But Enrile changed his mind after the majority senators—both those who signed the resolution and who did not—went to see him and made it clear that what had happened was not intended to question his leadership, Lacson said.

Deception

Still, Lacson said, "there was deception that happened." He said some of the senators who signed the resolution did so after being told that it had Enrile's blessings.

Lacson, who has no love lost for Villar, also said he had heard that two of the signatories would withdraw his signature because what had happened was a "subversion" of the function of the committee and an "unparliamentary" act.

Lacson demanded to know how some senators who had not attended the hearings could clear Villar, the standard bearer of the Nacionalista Party.

"What was wrong here is that even the respondents cleared himself," he said.

Zubiri refused Lacson's comments, saying that some majority senators who had signed the resolution did so on the understanding that it would not be released earlier than the report of the committee of the whole.

"It looks like they were duped. That is a sign of bad faith," Zubiri said.

He added that the committee report would be released this week or when senators return after a two-week break ending on Dec. 1.

'On equal footing'

But as this flew, no one rose to withdraw his or her signature from the resolution.

The debate ensued after Enrile told the resolution is out of order and referred it to the committee on rules.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano—who, like Villar, belongs to the minority bloc—took the floor to say that the resolution was drawn up before it was "important for the people to know this" before the Dec. 1 deadline of the filing of candidacies, and on that "irrespective's on equal footing."

Enrile reiterated that the resolution would in effect discharge the committee of the whole, which had been "laboring for several months" without the presence or assistance of the minority bloc.

"In chair of the committee, I should have been accorded some degree of respect before you filed this resolution. Did I bid you to any step?" Enrile said.

He noted that the signatories had said they were taking measures the resolution provided in the hearings. And yet, he said, the "voluminous" documentary evidences was not taken into consideration.

"Witnesses lie, but not documentary evidence," he said.

12 senators' view

Sen. Jinkee Sotto pushed for deferment of action on the resolution, and Lacson rose to make a vote on Enrile's ruling.

Enrile ruled that 12 senators have decided to express a view on the matter, Pimentel said.

Enrile insisted that it was not a "mere" resolution but "a subtle way of clearing the respondent without having to wait for the committee report."

After hearing Enrile reiterate that the resolution and committee report would be tackled at the same time, Pimentel said the group "can go along with that."

"To make my position clear, I have no objection if my colleagues having ordered via the committee on rules such the respondents on that the committee report will be presented side by side so that those can be compared by the people and we can debate on the substance of the resolution. But only hope there is a reconcile," Pimentel said.

Consistency

Sen. Francis Pangilinan stood by his action backing the resolution. He said it was Villar who had sought the inquiry.

According to Pangilinan, he is not being consistent because the casualty to which he belongs has always viewed the Senate investigations of Villar as politically motivated.

Pangilinan, a member of the Liberal Party of which Sen. Benigno Aquino III is the standard-bearer, said he had explained to the latter the reason behind his support of the resolution, and that the latter understood his position.

He said that the other senators not to use the Senate for political purposes, citing reports that an election case would also be filed against Aquino, this time for purported involvement in the Subic-Clark Turbine Expressway controversy.

Pangilinan also expressed surprise that Sen. Loren Legarda, who had earlier been against Villar in the C-5 Road issue, also signed the resolution.

For her part, Madrigal disclaimed the resolution, saying she would "not subscribe to political prosecution when the country's interest is at stake."

Madrigal also said she was congratulating Villar for "his fantastic lobbying in running Sen. Loren Legarda, who was initially against him, into his girl Friday."

While yesterday announced that Legarda would be his running mate in the 2010 presidential election. See story on Page A3.

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Burgonio

Drug tests reach W. Visayas schools

By Nestor P. Burgio Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER Education (CHEd) and Department of Health (DOH) have started conducting random tests on students in Western Visayas to check for drug use.

Dr. Ivy Castillo, officer in charge of the CHEd regional office, said the random tests were being conducted among students in Aklan and Antique provinces since Monday. The tests would be done on students for a week.

Next week, teams conducting the tests would be in Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Capiz and Guimaras.

Castillo said in a telephone interview on Tuesday that the testing could not cover all of the 149 private and government higher education institutions in the region because of the limited time and number of testing teams.

He said health and education officials would conduct the testing in 84 schools in the region—38 in Panay Island and 34 in Negros Occidental.

The testing complies with President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive issued early this year to heighten the government's campaign to ensure that all public and private high schools and colleges are drug-free.

Castillo said the three-member teams, composed of representatives of the CHEd and DOH, have been deployed in the region to conduct the testing.

The teams pick out randomly 10 students from each school from the list of students prepared by school officials. Those tagged for the tests were required to get their parents' written permission.

Castillo said all results of the testing would be kept confidential until the results would be forwarded to the CHEd's national office.

Last week, the CHEd-DOH teams conducted tests in five universities in Iloilo City, the regional education center of Western Visayas.

Castillo said in the students tests conducted in the region in 2007, 4 of 400 students tested got positive and were subjected to counseling in the presence of their parents.

Aside from acting as a deterrent to drug abuse, Castillo said the testing was aimed at determining the prevalence of drug use among students and finding ways to put a stop to it.

100 YEARS IN ASHES
Workers view what is left of the Dumarao Church (built in 1814, according to Hugo Vicente Eliaza) that was razed by a predawn fire Nov. 16 in the town of Dumarao, Capiz. At least 10 religious statues, all antiques, were also destroyed in the fire. A school beside the church wasn't spared and temporary classrooms are being built.
LEONILO A. DUCUSIN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Benguet typhoon damage extensive, says UN team

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE province stands to become the major beneficiary of a pledging session of the United Nations and its allied agencies once the list of losses and damage caused by Typhoon "Pepeng" is completed.

A UN team flew here recently to inspect roads and bridges damaged by landslides spawned by Pepeng's heavy rains and assess its impact on the local economy and the capability of local governments to implement rehabilitation.

Sabiri Djamaguli, humanitarian affairs officer of the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said the team's findings would be submitted to the Philippine government through the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) for evaluation.

The NDCC would later link up with the UN to seek international assistance, he said.

"We saw that the damage to agriculture and infrastructure was really that extensive," Djamaguli told reporters in Baguio en route to a meeting here on Monday.

Bernard Kublan, the UN World Food Program senior logistics officer to the country, said the team would relay to the UN the things and assistance Benguet needed and the medicine and long-term solutions to put the province back on its feet.

He said the other agencies affiliated with the UN were interested to learn about the result of the team's assessment.

Sorgosan told the group that the province has gone past the relief and rescue stage and local officials are now ready to put programs for rehabilitation in place. Jhelmar Gerilla, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Negros traders: Ethanol can help fight 'Big 3'

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—BUSINESS leaders in Negros Occidental on Tuesday called for more government support for the country's young ethanol industry, stressing that green fuel would be the country's way out of "a foreign economy."

"The country was being held hostage because 95 percent of fuel that its transport system uses is imported, said Roberto Montelibano, Metro Bacolod Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MBCCI) president.

Montelibano said 60 percent of the country's oil products come from the troubled Middle East, with 20 percent coming from Indonesia, Brunei and Malaysia, and purchased with dollars that have given the Philippines a negative trade balance for the past 10 years.

Greg Lopez, executive vice president of Bioenergy Int'l Philippines and MBCCI director for agriculture development, said on Tuesday the country could reduce dependence on imported fuel by producing renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel.

A survey by the Department of Agriculture and Department of Environment and Natural Resources identified 700,000 hectares of land in the country as available for ethanol.

On a low yield of 4,000 liters per hectare, these areas are capable of producing 2,800 million liters, which is more than half of the Department of Energy's projected gasoline requirement for 2013-2014, Lopez said.

Montelibano urged the government to show its commitment to environmentally friendly energy.

"(The) government should walk the talk on its push for green energy by providing adequate support to ensure its survival," he said.

The country currently has only one sugarcane-based ethanol plant in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental. At least 17 more ethanol plants are needed by 2013.

The government has to raise tariff on imported ethanol or elected from 1 percent to 30 percent to make the local industry viable and attract investors, he said.

WAITING FOR GLORIA
Members of an Aeta community gather outside one of their huts in Barangay Dike in Porac, Pampanga, to await the arrival of President Macapagal-Arroyo to inspect the construction of a government-funded classroom. (Jonnel De Jesus)

Clans rule politics in Eastern Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE POLITical horizon in Eastern Visayas appears no different from what it looked like in previous elections as known political clans were expected to preserve their hold on key elective positions in the region.

The Romualdezes of this city, the Codillas of Ormoc, and the Tiozons of Samar, this early, appear to have the early advantage over whoever their opponents would be in the coming elections.

In this city, Alfredo "Buju" Romualdez, former mayor, said he would run as vice mayor under his son, Alfred, who is incumbent mayor awaiting confirmation.

The elder Romualdez said he wanted to be vice mayor because he wanted to make the city council "one of the best in the country." Local government rules allow vice mayors to preside over city councils.

Buju, however, said the hunky was also busy consolidating its force to help Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. win a Senate seat. Bongbong is a nephew of Buju.

Alfred Romualdez's wife, Tacloban City Councilor Cristina G. Romualdez is seeking reelection. So is Buju Romualdez' Marthe Romualdez, son of former Leyte Gov. Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez.

In Ormoc City incumbent Mayor Eric Codilla would run for reelection. So would his brother, Eliseo Codilla, as mayor of nearby Barangay, Leyte.

Their father, however, Rep. Eufrocino Codilla Sr., is on his last term and is ineligible for reelection. Whereas Codilla Jr., one of his sons, would run in his place.

In Samar, Gov. Milagros Tan, now on her last term, is likely to seek election as congressman in the second district, a post that is currently held by her daughter, Rep. Sharee Ann Tan. Governor Tan was recently suspended by 90 days over a graft case.

In Northern Samar, Gov. Raul Daza, now on his last term, is running for congressman in the province's first district. The governor's son, Rep. Paul Daza, will run as governor in his father's place.

Nicanor Lubay, Inquirer Visayas

NEWSBRIEFS

● NEGROS ORIENTAL

German zoo owner held

A GERMAN zoo owner was arrested in Puerto Galera, Mindoro Oriental, on Wednesday after police seized undocumented Asian animals from him.

Arrested was Mario Lutz, 42, who owned a reptile zoo and resort in Sitio Milagro in Barangay San Isidro, Dauin town police chief Supt. James Brillantes.

Police recovered two pistols—a .45-cal. and a .22-cal.—two rifles and several boxes of ammunition.

Nestor Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

● CAMP VICENTE LIM

68 stolen refrigerators found

POLICE recovered from six suspects a container van carrying 60 refrigerators believed stolen from a cargo truck.

The loot, worth P1.5 million, was found in Barangay Lamboan in San Pedro, Laguna, on Sunday.

Police said the cargo was bound for the Manila port for shipping to Davao City when it was hijacked by the suspects in Taytay, Rizal, on Nov. 11, according to Police Chief Supt. Jaime of the ILA Express Trucking Services.

Chief Supt. Pantaleon Pukal, Calabarzon police regional director, said arrested were Jonathan Colombia, Lorito Lacuna, Richard Tendenoue, Jonathan Adalia, Jolly Boy Dinal and Randy Tampus, who claimed to be a Manila-based reporter.

Pukal said it was the second time the ILA Express Trucking Services owned by Della had been victim to highway robbers.

On Oct. 31, the company lost to robbers about P2.2 million worth of batteries and appliances intended for shipment to Mindanao.

Pukal said the number of highway robbery cases was expected to increase as the holidays draw near.

Nestor Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

● SAN PEDRO, Laguna

Man on kissing spree charged

A MAN is facing charges of acts of lasciviousness after he cursed up at a neighbor's birthday party and kissed four teenage girls, a police official said on Saturday.

Chief Insp. Milagros Sanchez, Cavite police information officer, said in a report that Francis Bello, 28, was drunk when he gate-crashed his neighbor's party in Barangay 3, Carmona, Cavite, on Thursday.

In a statement to police, the girls said Bello "molested, touched and kissed the different parts of their body against their will" and slapped only when the victims were able to seek help from neighbors.

Bello was injured when an angry mob caught up with him and beat him up.

Nestor Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

● DAVAO, Bukidnon

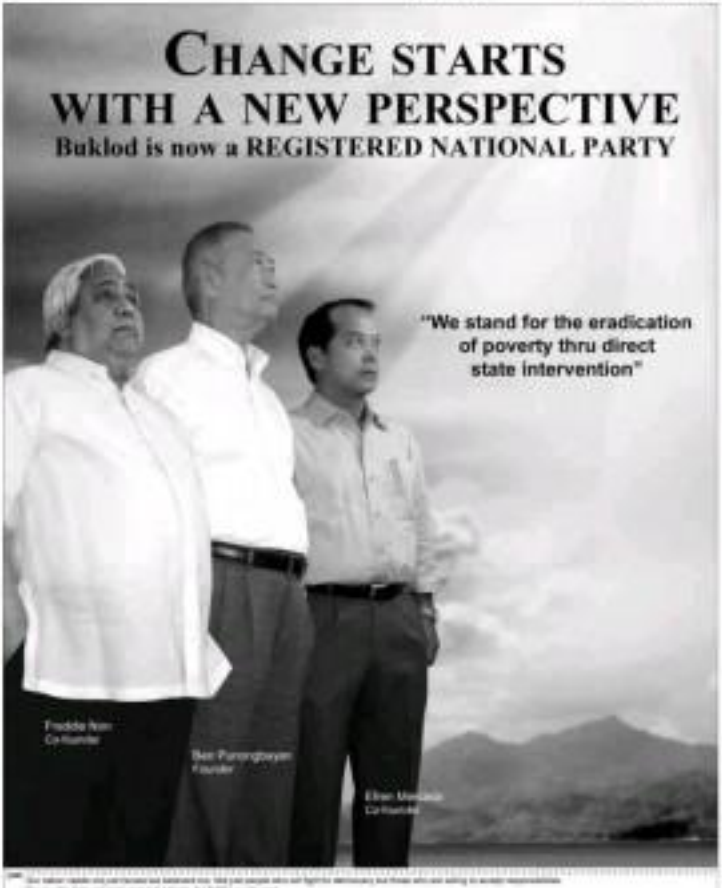
Fire starts 'cracker season'

TWO SEASONAL fires in firecracker stores and factories started early after two visits selling firecrackers were recorded in a fire in Barangay Tuno on Friday after an explosion.

No one was hurt, police said. Supt. Rodolfo de Jesus, Bocaue police chief, said store attendants ran when they saw sparks in a nearby stall.

The sparks, Sr. Insp. Jason Said, touched a pile of firecrackers and pyrotechnic products and started an explosion. Two vehicles burn in the area were also razed.

Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon



INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Assoc. Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

From pit stop to boom town

TWO MEN wade through floodwaters, pushing an ATM cart of goods along the national highway in Baculor town in Pangasinan at the height of Tropical Depression "Pepeng" last month. STORY ON PAGE A11

By Yolanda Sonsio
Baculor, Pangasinan

IN RECENT YEARS, THE AGRIcultural town of Baculor in Pangasinan was largely known for Carmen, a village where buses made pit stops on their way to Baguio City or the Ilocos.

The village, however, had nothing much to offer to travelers, apart from the delicacy (sapi) tuslon (uterine calf) sold by vendors. Despite its scenic spots, tourism services was limited. Growers Resident, the place was dusty and poverty was evident.

But Fonchin, instead after the flower carnival (panlilimo), is now free from the image that Carmen, the town's "attraction," used to project.

Mall presence

A branch of the shopping mall chain SM carries Baculor' name like a badge of honor and its main presence has pulled the once cheap town to progress since it opened last year.

Close to the population of being a hideout of illegal drug dealers.

Baculor, in fact, has been cited as the cleanest, greenest and safest town of Pangasinan for three consecutive years (2006, 2007 and 2008) by the provincial government.

For the transformation, the Civil Service Commission gave the 2008 Pantukalang Lingkod Bayan award to Mayor Ricardo Bevina, a former police official.

Bevina, now on his second term, was elected for his outstanding service and accomplishments in public service through programs "leading to the improvement of environment that improved and revitalized Baculor into a progressive town."

Social programs

Yet it is not the physical improvements that matters most to residents. Rather, it's the investments poured on social programs, such as education for out-of-school youth.

Bevina said the reality about the need to educate out-of-school youth dawned him at the best in 2007 when a dropout was the chair of the Sangguniang Kabataan.

The candidates were deciding on who would be tabbed as officials, and a boy, who was deeply involved in community activities, was considered. But he was rejected by all others.

Bevina later learned that the boy finished only Grade 2 and the other candidates felt he was out of their league. The boy was so humiliated that he never joined any SK activity again.

He also cited a story of an 18-year-old high school dropout who tried to kill himself when his father scolded him when he asked for $1. The father, it turned out, is also a high school dropout who drives a pedicab to feed his family.

Lack of education

"I realized then that lack of education among residents was a big problem," Bevina said.

A survey done by the municipal government showed that 4,000 residents, aged 18-20 years, had not completed elementary or high school education.

From there, results: more delinquents and youth offenders, showing that numbers, lack of education, poverty and crime are closely intertwined, said Bevina.

"I discussed with my son, Richeen, a program to help out-of-school youth complete at least their high school education using the SPG local funds," he said.

The SPG has a P200,000 annual budget for its programs and projects, and most of the money is used for sports tournaments and tree-planted projects. The Bevinas thought it would be wiser to use the money to educate the youth.

Out-of-school youth program

Under the municipal government's continuing education program for out-of-school youth, classes are held three times a week. The first batch of learners graduated 2008, including a visiting mother and a 54-year-old father, who both wanted to complete their secondary education.

About 120 enrolled in the second batch.

Just before the first batch graduated, Bevina asked the students who among them had trouble with the police. "Many hands were raised," he said.

After a while, however, those who raised their hands looked disciplined and wanted to become policemen themselves.

"So we got rid of delinquency not only illiteracy but also juvenile delinquency," Bevina said.

Only 17 students in the first batch passed the Department of Education's accreditation and equivalency test for secondary education.

But Bevina said the number was good enough. He hoped that more would be inspired to pursue their studies up to college or take technical courses.

Eco-tourism

Another project close to Bevina's heart is his eco-tourism programs.

About 10 kilometers from the national highway in a 100-hectare area of rolling hills covered by thickets and fruit trees and straddling four villages.

"This used to be a lair of insurgents," Bevina said. "When I was a police officer, I was assigned here to keep insurgents away. I found it a beautiful place worth preserving and developing for ecotourism."

The area has a lake fed by the springs from Mt. Balungao, an extinct volcano. Two other lakes in adjoining villages offer visitors a place to relax and bond with their families.

Bevina said the place was inaccessible to most residents until he ordered the construction of a road across the hills.

Hundreds of fruit trees were planted there and when these bear fruits, residents and visitors can grab anything they can eat, he said.

"Baculor is blessed with beautiful resources and bounty and we hope to make it worthy of its name," he said.

CHRISTMAS IS IN THE FARE!
Enjoy affordable fares this Christmas!

DOMESTIC SEAT SALE GO LITE FARE

₱999 ALL DOMESTIC DESTINATIONS!

Sale Period: Nov. 17 to 19, 2009
Travel Period: Dec. 1 to 31, 2009

INTERNATIONAL GO LITE FARE

₱1,399 Manila to Kota Kinabalu or Taipei
₱1,899 Manila to Guangzhou or Ho Chi Minh; Clark to Hong Kong, Macau or Singapore
₱2,399 Manila to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Macau or Singapore
₱2,899 Cebu to Hong Kong or Singapore; Clark to Bangkok
₱3,399 Manila to Kuala Lumpur or Shanghai
₱3,899 Manila to Incheon or Jakarta; Cebu to Incheon or Busan

INTERNATIONAL GO FARE

₱5,499 Manila to Osaka

Quoted fares are one way. Limited availability. Fares are exclusive of government fees and taxes. Go Lite Fares are available upon booking for guests traveling without check-in baggage. Add ₱1,000 to fare upon booking if traveling with check-in baggage. CAB approved terms and conditions of carriage apply and are available online at http://www.cebupacificair.com. Call (02) 70-10-888 in Manila, (032) 230-88-88 in Cebu or visit the travel agent near you.

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

BDO

SPORTS
Editor Tonichi S. Hernandez • Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Chiva

E-mail: sports@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/sports
Basketball Text Hot: 2820 6262 loc. 4417

Hot Ginebra stakes 3-game run vs Sta. Lucia

By Mooney R. Castillo

DISPUTED SHOT OF THE TRIP BUT FRIGID enough error to win, Barangay Ginebra puts a three-game winning streak on the line today when it clashes with Sta. Lucia with the Elite Kings also eyeing a piece of the 4th PBA Philippine Cup lead at the Araneta Coliseum.

Tipoff time is 7:30 p.m. with the Kings, in their fifth of 11 Elims stint in their seven conferences, seeking to improve on their 3-1 record slightly over the Realtors even with the continued absence of scoring machine Mark Caguioa and rookie reigning MVP Jaypee Helterbrand yet to hit peak form.

The Realtors are reeling from two straight defeats after a strong 4-1 start, Sta. Lucia has suddenly gasped for fans.

Ginebra coach Jong Uichico, however, is far from convinced that tonight's game will be an easy outing.

"Sta. Lucia is a team that is just getting its bearings," Uichico said. "They (Realtors) got things done."

At 5-1, the Kings have bettered their 2007 start in this tournament and are actually on track to matching the franchise's best-ever all-Filipino start recorded 12 years ago (7-1), while the losses are still headed by Sonny Alvarado and Lawrence de Guzman's QBs.

Meanwhile, struggling squads Burger King and Coca-Cola take the floor at 5 p.m., with the Whopper looking to arrest a three-game skid.

Coca-Cola lost its last game after breaking through against Purefoods two rookie ups, and the Tigers will have to grind it out for another game without leader Art Dumlao, who is still out because of a slight foot fracture.

Burger King will come into the game sporting form on 83-79 setback at the hands of the Kings in Tabuk, Lanao del Norte, on Saturday where Rocky Villanueva, Cyrus Baguio and Ronald Tubid pulled out the win for Ginebra.

Baguio, a star in other teams before he went to Ginebra, has slowly found his rhythm in the continued absence of Caguioa, coming in at least 15 points in each of the last three Ginebra victories to regain his lost status in the league.

Behrendorff will play the second game in his comeback from cancer injury.

Ryan Reyes and Jeffy Williams will spearhead the Realtors, with Uichico shaking the offseason by dealing away former cornerstones Dennis Espino and Dennis Miranda and acquiring younger talent in Gabby Espinas and Jeric Fabruada.

Roach eyes long break for Manny

Wants Mayweather next

By Francis T. J. Chiva

HOLLYWOOD—MANNY PACQUIAO SHEDS HIS TRADITIONAL FOOTLIGHT visit to the Wild Card gym here Monday with Freddie Roach eying to matchmake ever IBO welterweight champion to take a long break before returning to the ring maybe by bringing Floyd Mayweather Jr. here next April.

A fight, Roach believes, that should be against Floyd Mayweather Jr.

"I think he should rest for a while, enjoy the holidays, one (he) the elections, and then compromise Pacquiao will beat Mayweather's ass," the celebrated trainer said.

Roach's sacramento eyrie rests as the undisputed Pacquiao headquarters. Unlike other Pacquiao after beating his name was all over the coliseum Saturday night, when Pacquiao made history by taking Miguel Cotto (up via a 12th-round technical knockout at the MGM Grand and becoming the first boxer to win titles in seven weight divisions.

Four-division "Sweet Pea" Mayweather Jr. (39-0, 25 KOs) is the only fighter who's going to tell him, now negotiate through the newspapers. If that happens and egos get in the way, the fight might not happen. From one side, we're willing."

The Associated Press reported that Las Vegas has opened a betting line for the possible Pacquiao-Mayweather bout with the Filipino may keep starting out as 6-5 favorite before "Pretty Boy" supporters wagered heavily to bring the line down to 7-5.

Pacquiao, who arrived to an appreciative applause at the gym with his fight one and hand still bandaged, has said he will listen if it comes to negotiate for his next fight.

Roach, though, sees Mayweather as the most plausible foe, even if he believes Pacquiao will have to shoulder the burden of making the fight exciting.

"All Mayweather does is run," Roach said. "It will be a boring fight but a lot of people will pay to see it one time but it will be less exciting than other Manny Pacquiao fights but it will be a huge fight."

Currently Floyd Mayweather Jr. thinks he can shouldn't fight Pacquiao.

"If it were up to me, I'd say no," the older Mayweather said.

Asked for an explanation, he said "I have my own reasons."

Justice Secretary seemed ready for that showdown.

FightHub.com reported that less than 36 hours after Pacquiao's victory Mayweather hit the gym for a mental test, and could hear training that included extra work and hitting the heavy and speed bags in his Vegas.

The boxing website said that after showcasing, Mayweather told onlookers at the gym to come back "after I whip Pacquiao's ass."

With initial pay-per-view reports due Tuesday, top think and the Mayweather camp are not begin talks as to how the purse will be split between the two boxers. Mayweather's team wants a 65-35 split, something that Roach finds ridiculous.

"He didn't do anything (in fighting Juan Manuel Marquez) but (it's fair to) 90 percent of those boys were because of Marquez, who became popular after fighting Pacquiao," Roach said.

"Mayweather doesn't have a huge following. I would prefer it be 60-40 but hopefully, we could make it happen," Roach added.

HAHA!! Pacquiao sports a bandaged ear and hand during his visit to the Wild Card gym Monday, two days after beating Miguel Cotto via 12th-round TKO.

Gorres opens eye, makes thumbs-up sign to trainer

By Ray Lauzo

HE OPENED HIS LEFT EYE AND MADE A thumbs-up sign.

There, according to doctors, are clear indicators that Filipino boxer 2 "The Dynast" Gorres is on his way to recovery after undergoing surgery to remove a blood clot in his brain Friday night in Las Vegas.

"It's progress but continued to be very good," Michael Aldrgate, president of Gorres' handler ALA Promotions, said in a press conference posted on FightHub.com, yesterday.

"The brain pressure has remained stable. Hemitherapy is not needed anymore."

To confirm the bright prognosis, Gorres—who collapsed after being declared winner by unanimous decision over Colombian Luis Melendez in a 10-round bout Friday night (Saturday in Manila)—was scheduled for an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scan yesterday.

"The key tomorrow is to decrease sedation and allow him to be more conscious," Aldrgate said. "They will start weaning him from the ventilator in order to allow him to breathe on his own."

According to Rabbi Yilmaz, Gorres' trainer, he could make the thumbs-up sign after he asked him if he was feeling okay.

Meanwhile, Maldonado, and the city government of Mandaue City, operator an armored duty will help Gorres, his wife Dutch, to and their four young children financially.

Sanders intends to fly to the United States and be with her husband when he begins physical therapy as soon as he's taken out of the intensive care room.

RP cyclists join roller racing

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL CYCLING TEAM seen in this year's tour, four rookie Mark Galedo will complete the racing of the Tour Miguel by the Bay series of the Mall of Asia on Sunday.

Gorres' best Bohol Danao Bughao in last year's final at the Festival Mall in Alabang.

Alfie Catalan, Lloyd Reynante, ex-triathlete Antonio Bautista, cover Ricardo are also entering.

Roller racing will have cyclists riding tube by tube on rollers, three dropped out to start. Each bike is equipped with a heart monitoring system.

UST, St. Scho capture FBL 3-on-3 titles

UNIVERSITY of SANTO TOMAS CAPTURED the boys' championship, while St. Scholastica's Colleges bagged the girls crown in the Parauers Basketball League Barangay Sun 3 tournament recently at the Jose Rizal College Alabang covered courts.

The Tiger Cubs downed Golden Staglets, 15-7, in the championship round after sweeping all of their previous matches.

St. Scholastica tripped St. Theresa's College, 6-5, in a shootout after finishing tied in regulation.

Don Bosco Technical Institute also surprised over San Beda College-Alabang, 7-4, to claim the midgets title.

College de San Agustin-FCAU 1 ended the mini division crown after topping Immaculate Conception Academy-CIA 2 at 4-3 in the finals.

Golden Stallions, not ranked in among the pre-tournament favorites, advanced to the championship round after finishing on the top of Group A with a 3-0 record.

Ateneo de Manila University Blue Eagles, which finished second to Don Bosco in Group B with a 2-1 record, also reached the semifinals.

Bondoc's 67 paces ICTSI Tour's Valley leg

By Mooney R. Castillo

GEMS! Bondoc shows off for a pair of amateurs.

ANTIPOLO—BOOBOO PIO GUSI Bondoc stole the thunder from a couple of marksmen with a five-under-par 67 yesterday and surged to a one-stroke lead at the start of the ICTSI Philippine Pro Tour's Valley leg.

After flirting with a breakthrough victory in the Point Hills leg where he eventually finished third, Bondoc upstaged amateurs Asael Abalos and Jessie Bolocolon, who had held the clubhouse lead with 68s, together with veteran Oscar Dalmacio.

Bondoc had a 32-35 card with four of his six birdies coming in the back nine. His only bogey came on the 18th.

Asaeal Sales and journeyman Ruben Gosiaff fired 69s to be two shots off, with the duo of Jun Bacay and former Philippine Open winner Gaston Cano another shot back after 70s.

Abalos and Bolocolon, who are seeking status for the first time under the banner of the newly hatched ICTSI Campaign/Gotabang program, teamed in outstanding rounds.

Abalos, the second-ranked PH amateur today, had the hottest against a mixed-gross bogey 5 on hole No. 3, while Bolocolon, who like his teammate won the National Caddies' Open tournament, had an eagle, six birdies and four bogeys.

Bolocolon holed a 60-yard road wedge for his eagle 2 on his opening hole, the 18th, before going on to birdie all four par-5s. He dropped shots on Nos. 13 and 16 sent in the first and third holes.

Two other amateurs, PT tournament Antonio Asanta II and reigning national champion Mark Fernando, fired identical 72s to stay in the hunt while Subic Bay-ite, the defending champion best, would need a lot of catching up to do after a 78.

Asanta and Fernando, who accomplished at the Riviera in Cavite two months ago, are the only amateurs to emerge in this circuit.

Meanwhile, Marvin Dumandan became the new Order of Merit leader after finishing second to Jay Bayron in the Point Hills leg.

Dumandan had to sit for two PHK1,807 with only two stops left in the 10-leg circuit, overtaking Freddie Jumpit, the Royal Northwoods winner who has to be packed PHK1,543.

Salcedo, who won at Montville Hills, is in third spot with PHK1,532.

PCA Open: Rogan, Pang whip first-round foes

By Cudell P. Tupas

THIRD SEED ARLEN ROGAN AND FOURTH SEED Abdulla Pang dumped separate rivals yesterday to reach the second round of the 28th Philippine Columbian Association Open at the PCA's Indoor clay-court in Manila.

Pang, a veteran of the Southeast Asia Games, took the first set with ease but needed a strong finish to oust crowd-favorite Filipino on his way to a 6-0, 6-3 victory over 14-year-old Akiko de Guzman.

Pang's win arranges a second round duel with Abdiel Pedie, 6-4, 7-5 winner over Ivy de Castro.

Rogan, fronting in a strong challenge for the title because of his impressive baseline game, downed Ilee Jose in a 6-1, 6-4 victory at Hectic Barangaan.

The other seeded players who made the second round were fifth-ranked Antoni Agra, 6-0, 6-0 winner over Sharon Quimco and seventh-seed Regina Jandiga, who blanked Jhanlyn Magsaysay, 6-0, 6-0.

Teenage sensation Jessicka Martine Gaba, Jessica Tan Shi, Samantha Cayabyab, Shanine Ofiesmit and Louisa Jacobs also moved into the second round.

Gaba thumbed out Louise Lopez, 6-1, 6-2, to secure possible duel with top seed Christine Nicholas, who was still playing Nikki Manalo at press time.

Tan Shi shut out Rissh Bulos, 6-0, 6-0, Cayabyab posted top-seeding Pi Castrillo, 6-1, 6-0, Ofiesmit obliterated Nikka de Dios, 6-0, 6-0, and Jacobs stunned Trudy Amarenda, 6-2, 6-0.

Giles flunks Gilas test, leaves for US

By Jose Mascuna

C.J. GILES PACKED HIS THINGS ON Monday and left for the United States.

Chairman of the Asbest 11 former Los Angeles Lakers won't be back.

Sunshaing Rabadeta ng Pilipinas executive director Bull Eala confirmed yesterday that Giles—whose naturalization was being arranged to allow him to play for the national team—had been removed from the Smart Gilas development squad for failing to meet expectations.

"After a long and thorough evaluation of CJ's performance in the last month, we decided to pre-terminate his contract and cut him from Smart Gilas," said Eala.

Giles, who entered last Friday's game against Ateneo Lady Eagles due to a foot injury signed a one-year contract with Smart Gilas that includes perks such as free housing, a car and insurance.

"The coaching staff felt that he underperformed in his first month due to lack of focus and various injuries," said Eala.

Giles' presence in the team no longer had a "positive influence" on his teammates and coaches, Eala added.

A times tender claimed that Giles had an active nightlife.

"These injuries were triggered by lack of rest and focus," the source told the inquirer.

The acquisition of Giles provided Smart Gilas with a steady presence in the paint. However, he gifted with defensive deeds, Giles is an efficient shot blocker and reliable rebounder and scores most of the points above the rim.

Team officials said the talented American is not the type the SBP would gladly help re-ob-

C.J. GILES' loss of focus prompts SBP officials to dismiss him.

tain Filipino citizenship as he could play for the national team competing for the 2011 Fiba Asia Championship, the qualifying tournament for the 2012 London Olympics.

"We believe that Smart Gilas must possess some of the qualities that we are looking for in the player who will be bestowed citizenship by naturalization," said Eala.

"Only those truly deserving should be given the privilege and honor to play as a naturalized player for the country."

Giles played in an import for Smart Gilas during the Fiba Asia Championships Qualifying Tournament in Doha, Qatar in which SP finished fifth behind host, Jordan, Lebanon and Qatar.

He abandoned team Giles in that tournament the Smart Gilas coaching staff, led by Siot Tanquincen Butler Tenorio, did not think twice to fire him.

Meanwhile, the plight of coach Tenorio has been known. Ateneo prevented Giles from focusing on Smart Gilas' stint in the SEC-Pha SP Cup where it is playing as a guest squad.

Villalon lifts RP karters to second in Thailand

BEN VILLALON AND YOUNG KARTERS Emilio Oliveros and Marlon Ivan raced to separate divisions to power the Philippine team to a runner-up finish in the 2008 Asian Karting Open Championship recently at the A.C. Motorsport Circuit in Sriracha, Thailand.

Villalon bagged the Yamaha Cup Senior championship, but it's the 13-year-old Oliveros who grabbed the spotlight after topping an impressive debut with the Yamaha Cup Junior crown.

Ivan completed the country's three-gold romp by clinching the overall Asian Mini ROK glory.

The Philippines topped three of the 11 titles at stake to finish behind overall champion Indonesia, which dominated only five crowns.

Thailand's Tee Sirkon emerged as the Asian Karting of the Year for the second straight season after topping runner-up and top SP Jett John Tandiko of Hong Kong for the top individual honor by eight points.

Winners of PDPA-high Vega Racing-TEDEL-sponsored 7 number of 2008 Motion, dominated an experienced field led by Archie Lagman and John Carlsen of ACTS Racing.

Jett similarly tacked back strife that included competitor Christian Gold.

Ryan Salking Manuel's bagged the Rotax Max Senior overall title to lead Indonesia's championship run.

Other winners include: Indonesia's Dinky Martono (Under Mt. Rotax) Indonesia (ROK Junior), Andhika Sandoso (Rotax Max Junior), Mohammad Hanif Nahrajo (Formula 125 Open Junior) and Singapore's John Zhang (overall ROK Senior).

Armstrong M. Pinpin

SPORTSWATCH

Last 'Balibalakan' eliminations on

THE FINAL ELIMINATION ROUND OF THE PSA-edition PBP-SP National "Balibalakan" 9-Ding Derby at the Makati Coliseum this afternoon with participants setting out to catch the top spinners.

Among the rank frontrunners are Tony Lucido, Edwin Rosquillo, Joe Bartolome, Boom Maldonado, Peter Belen and Mayor Jerry Pacificarnes.

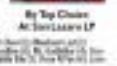
Spearheaded by the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders, the 2008 "Balibalakan" has already distributed its previous record of 2,200 entries, including 300 of the Makati choice.

'Rambulan' resumes at SJC today

ANOTHER ELIMINATION ROUND IS THE PSA-edition Nationwide "Rambulan" 9-Ding Derby gets going today at the San Juan Coliseum.

As of yesterday, about 1,000 entries have passed the derby mills. 25 more elimination rounds scheduled at SJC and other contacts nationwide, according to "Rambulan" officer Ariel Castillo.

Eight participants—four from SJC, three from Manila and one from Bonoyan—have tallied no wins each and await three more wins to bag the crown and the championship prize of P1.7 million.



By Top Choice
At San Lazaro LP

Zalameda lone Filipino ITF survivor

By Jaerime N. Pino

FILIPINA RIZA ZALAMEDA SURVIVED THE foreign gauntlet with upheaval yesterday as four other Filipinos crashed out in the opening round of the $125K Smart ITF Women's Circuit-Week 2 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Zalameda, a former Southeast Asian Games gold medalist, overwhelmed Thailand's Sophita Chikhay, 6-2, 6-3, to set up a second-round duel with South Korea's Han Na-lae.

The Philippines' oldest, Anna Clarissa Ucol and Anna Clarice Alino, along with Clarence Mae Saycon and Rumbi Zobel, however, bowed out early just as they did in last week's Hololo ITF event.

Zalameda have a tough contender in Han, who battled back from a set down for a 2-6, 6-0, 6-3 upset triumph over the then-seeded 4th Champion of Libya.

Anna Clarissa, the 17-year-old daughter of former PBA superstar Alvin Patrimonio, absorbed a 6-2, 6-1 setback against Chinese Taipei's Asan Ting Yu, before younger sister Anna Clarice dropped a 6-0, 6-2 decision to the Thailand's Sirinat Chinpong.

Zalameda also bested daylight saver Rowena Reyes Arjona, 6-0, 6-2, but Arevalo, the country's former top seed, proved a strong challenge against seventh-ranked Miss Sung Hee of Korea before yielding, 6-3, 2-6, 6-1.

The 23-year-old Zalameda today broke Mulcagal's serve in the second set to seal the win as she double-aces to love-deuce then erased deuces to the hole in her 59th ITF tournament.

ZALAMEDA

Mommy D wants Manny to retire now

IN HUDDLE

Beth Coyle

PROBABLY MEMORIES THE originally had. Jerrold S. "The Mommy" Roberts in Las Vegas Sun Friday the 13th, Mommy Dionisia Pacquiao is now strongly urging her son to hang up his gloves.

At the end of his fight against the cute-looking Colombian boxer Luis Melendez, and after losing decision the winner, Gerry walked uncreditly toward his corner and collapsed.

He was rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors found a blood clot in his brain that was causing so much pressure and swelling. To save Gerry's life, doctors immediately operated on him.

Mommy D's fears were obviously aggravated by the fact that blood oozed from Manny's right ear after his own fight with former WBO welterweight champion Miguel Cotto. The ear had to be drained and bandaged.

Causing further worry, the ear still bled the next day and had to be drained again of blood and other fluids by Dr. Jeffrey Roth, the Pacman's attending physician.

While millions of Filipinos prayed for Manny's recovery on the eve of "Pacquinity," there were many others who also prayed that Gerry step out of sports and recover well enough to live a normal life again.

* * *

The sad thing about this whole tragedy is that, just before he entered the ring for his bout with Melendez, Gerry had been promised a rematch title fight against WBC champion Fernando Montiel.

Thrilled at the prospect, Gerry promised his manager Michael Aldugaier he would put an end to his demonstrative life style. It was the same promise he earlier made to veterans media man Ronnie Nathanielsz.

The boxer did exactly that, unaware that he was setting the stage for his last hurrah.

* * *

The young fighters of the ALA Gym in Cebu continue to inspire the Sto. Niño Basilica to pray for their colleague.

According to Aldugaier, who is keeping vigil on the injured boxer at the University Medical Center in Las Vegas, their prayers are being answered because Gerry is getting better.

The swelling of the brain has subsided, consciousness has returned and there is no longer any danger of a second stroke. Gerry is now even able to utter what's happening around him.

Doctors want to retain Gerry's stay from the ventilator to allow his brain to recover for his own.

Aldugaier is requesting for more prayers for G.

* * *

A friend who watched the Manny Pacquiao-Miguel Cotto telecast by Solar Sports at the jampacked Araneta Coliseum was taken aback when he saw Willie Bedillano took aim the MGM brand bedding Pacquiao's left arm.

Willie Jeakee was on Manny's right but clearly the camera focused on Manny and Willie.

Questions: Is Willie moving for public office?

* * *

Mommy D now wants to follow in her son's footsteps, as a singer, mind you. In fact she recorded something with her idol Imelda Papin, who was also in Las Vegas for Manny's fight. Imelda said Mommy D is pretty good.

Well, what can I say? It seems that Mommy D is now a star in her own right.

* * *

One can't help but marvel at Manny's energy and stamina. Imagine, from the MGM Grand, he proceeded to Hamdeby Sur after the fight to participate in the Manny Pacquiao Band concert where he belted out eight songs. His ear could be still bleeding at the time.

QBLA Berning (left) and Jumpeng Quiring of Adamson try to keep the ball in play during their match against Ateneo. ARIEL FLORES

Lady Stags sink Benilde tossers

Clinch Shakey's V-League semis seat

By Cedrik P. Tapay

"THE STATEMENT GAME at a SOLgator especially coming from a coach who wants to have an immediate thirst for winning."

"I felt like we already won the championship," said San Sebastian coach Roger Gorayeb after his battle-worn Lady Stags overpowered the Benilde, 25-23, 24-26, 25-21, 25-19, yesterday to clinch a spot in the semifinals of the Shakey's V League Season 6 second conference.

"For a team weakened by the graduation of players, this is already a huge achievement," the multi-titled coach said.

The Lady Stags closed out the quarterfinals with an 8-0 record for solo second, behind the 9-1 of league-leading University of Santo Tomas, which was playing Far Eastern U as of press deadline.

Later, Adamson took a huge step towards the last semifinal berth with a come-from-behind 25-27, 25-17, 25-22, 25-21 win over Ateneo of the PBA Flying V throwers in four sets.

The triumph allowed the Lady Soaring to tie Ateneo at fourth with a 6-3 record.

But whatever will be doomed to clinch a semifinal berth, sure it will have a fighting assignment as opposed to Ateneo on Friday.

The Lady Eagles will meet UST for its last game, while the Lady Falcons will tackle defense DLSU.

Ivy Steele pumped in a career-high 20 points—15 off attacks—for the Lady Stags, who will appear in their tenth semifinal since joining the league five years ago.

ADAMSON	**W**	**L**
CCT	6	3
San Sebastian	6	3
ATENEO	6	3
FEU	5	4
Adamson	3	6
Benilde	3	6
St. Scholastica	2	7
GAMES TODAY		
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)		
2 p.m. —Adamson vs St. Scholastica		
4 p.m. —Ateneo vs FEU		

RP eleven rises 35 places in new Fifa rankings

By Cedrik P. Tapay

THERE'S AN AIR OF OPTIMISM IN SOCCERING the impending arrival of British coach Desmond Bulpin, who has been tasked to handle the progress and training of the Philippine to Gold Stars.

Bulpin, who had coaching stints with the Tampines Rovers in the Singapore League and the Uzbekistan Under-17 team, will take over a national team that has leapt 35 places to No. 153 in the world rankings over the past year.

"This is very encouraging for our national team," said Philippine Football Federation secretary general Cyril Dollete. "Receiving that set have improved in the football world, our players will be motivated to play better."

The Philippines failed to handle qualifying tournaments for the AFC Challenge Cup and the Asean Football Championship last last year.

Notwithstanding the losses, Dollete said the international participation has helped sharpen up the team.

His statement was echoed by PFF technical director Aris Caslib.

"It has been a gruelling yet very competitive year for Philippine football," Caslib said. "This year marks many developments for the PFF."

"This is a very good way of telling the world that the PFF is doing everything to improve our image," said Dollete.

What will we do when Pacquiao is gone?

ONE GAME AT A TIME

JOE SORIANO

STEPPING OUT OF A CINEMA 93-petite with hundreds of others who came through 12 delightful but anxious months of Pacquiao-Cotto, you couldn't help but wonder what our sports life would be like when Manny was out of worthy challengers and hungry for glory.

I will give credit: we are a Filipino on an Olympic gold medal but I have seen more than a lifetime of Pacquiao **unparalleled** so at least, in some way, approximate the thrill of winning that elusive Olympic prize.

My guardian assistant is formidable opponents, just like when Miguel Cotto experienced in the third and fourth rounds and at the last, when Manny Barbera valiantly stepped in to stop the fight. Pacquiao's transformation from a raw, fund-hitting dagger into a cerebral and calculating champion has thrilled a nation hungry for heroes to emulate.

"We should enjoy this while it lasts. This reverie will against Cotto, carried out of gate and blame and not exclusively by power, so sorry. Pacquiao's place in history as one of the greatest Filipino athletes ever.

"When the Pacquiao phenomenon ends—and we all hope to as ending where the Filipino warrior is the last man standing—no one else will compare—not Bradpitt.com to the extent we have from the late Dando. We like any, one to time and swing of Pacquiao are the stuff great tales are made of.

Sihandoo inspired by Pacquiao conquest and feared victory have emerged but have submerged into a quickly because they don't get the same breaks or don't work as hard as the Filipino legend.

So how much longer will this last?

Being a smart warrior and a serious relieve young fame cereal by not hanging their gloves at the right time, Pacquiao should be the one col-

lective spotlight for probably three or four more years.

A third fight with Juan Manuel Marquez will erase all doubts about his ability to stop the Mexican **master punches who has slowly learned how to take the very best from Pacquiao. Pacquiao has scaled a whole with Marquez is definitely off balance it will not spell—fish.

However, with the way Pacquiao is conditioned now, Marquez will find it very hard to place reciprocity.

* * *

A fight against Floyd Mayweather Jr. will arguably bring Pacquiao closer to a glorious finish.

The enemy might is gaining in the way of making this fight happen. But reason the sports superstars is that a city we under the millionaires. It is a fight everyone wants to see.

In the future, when Pacquiao and Mayweather's fight records are evaluated, questions will arise why there never was a fight between the two. It's a thing belongs to the next generation.

Enjoy this newly minted Pacquiao title. It will be part of the legend you will tell your grandchildren for a long, long time.

1,000 vying in gym and club t'kwondo

ABOUT 1,000 ATHLETES FROM METRO Manila and the provinces will vie for honors in the future national gym and club taekwondo championships this Saturday at the Rizal Coliseum.

"This new event gives up-and-coming and veteran jins from gyms and clubs affiliated with the national association the chance to show their skills," said Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert M. dela Cruz.

Organizing committee chair Sang Deong Hong, said the tournament is part of PTA's commitment to develop the sport and support the government's grassroots programs.

Participants will be classified as to categories—senior, team and secondary, junior men and women and grade school boys and girls.

PRO-GYM
#1 IN MUSCLE MACHINES
www.progymequipment.com
WORLD-CLASS EQUIPMENT TO MATCH YOUR BUDGET!
ELECTRONIC MACHINES
MULTI-STATION MACHINES
CAM & LEVERAGE MACHINES
TRAINING MACHINES
PLATE-LOADED MACHINES
WEIGHTS & RACKS
CARDIO MACHINES
CALL or Text or Email CATALOG & PRICE LIST
Trusted by Philippine Armed Forces since 1986
SEPTEMBER INC.

Fit 'n Right fun run at MOA

ABOUT P300,000 IN CASH AND merchandise prizes await runners in the Century Island "Fit 'n Right" charity fun run this Sunday, at SM Mall of Asia grounds in Pasay City.

Tiers will be awarded in the 10K, 5K and 3K events, in the races billed as the Manila's way of promoting health and fitness.

Century Island's flagship computer is up for grabs in the raffle after the race. A "shopper" with a single, clear $6 and 10 "$ Right products within given to all registrants.

Proceeds from the registration will be donated to SM Foundation which is helping typhoon victims.

PING GOLF CLUB FITTING
AFFLIGHT

Nowitzki shot lifts Mavs

NOWITZKI

DENVER—DIRK NOWITZKI hit an 18-foot fallaway as time expired in overtime to give the Dallas Mavericks a 115-113 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Monday night.

With 3.1 seconds left, Nowitzki caught a pass from Jason Kidd, who finished a point shy of a triple-double, and threw it up over Luc Richard Mbah a Moute. The ball rattled off the rim and backboard, dropping softly through the hoop as the backboard lights came on.

Nowitzki, who finished with 32 points and 11 rebounds, untucked his jersey and celebrated with his teammates near the Mavericks' bench after the shot went in. The play was upheld on review.

Kidd had nine points, 10 rebounds and 17 assists for the Mavericks, who lost forward Shawn Marion when he sprained his left ankle in the second quarter.

Meanwhile, 10-time All-Star guard Allen Iverson has left the Memphis Grizzlies a few months after joining them as a free agent. He had been on source of absence since Nov. 7 to deal with an undisclosed personal matter. AP

Aplus METRO Letty Abadeda S. Ubaldo

TROUBLE AT WAKE LEADS TO SHOOT-OUT

Cop vs cops: 2 dead, 1 hurt

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A POLICEMAN WHO HAD JUST killed his girlfriend shot it out with two colleagues who were chasing after him shortly after midnight yesterday, leaving him and one of his pursuers dead.

The third policeman was wounded and taken to a hospital for treatment.

Chief Insp. Benjamin Ilarmina, chief of the Quezon City Police District (QPCD) homicide investigation section, said the shoot-out took place on around 12:40 a.m. yesterday on Tandang Sora Avenue in Quezon City.

Earlier, SPO1 Hunter Balmores, 49, who was assigned at the National Capital Region Police Office in Taguig City, picked a fight with people who were gambling at the wake of his girlfriend's brother on Mendez Road, Barangay Bagong Silangan, also in Quezon City.

Policeman was drunk

Witnesses said Balmores's girlfriend, Rina Ramos, tried to pacify him but the policeman, who was drunk, took out his service firearm and pointed it at her.

This irked Ramos who dared him to shoot her, which he did. The policeman then fled.

CDP, A23

MMDA chair to resign post soon

By Nikko Calleja

STILL BENT ON FULFILLING HIS AMBITION to become the country's next president, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando announced yesterday that he would soon quit his post.

"There is no running back. Definitely I'm resigning soon so that there won't be any doubts about my next step or decision," Fernando said in a statement.

FERNANDO

Failed bid

He did not say, however, when he would resign.

Fernando, a mem-

MMDA, A23

DID YOU KNOW

THE SITE now occupied by the Manila Ocean Park Hotel used to be the National Cycle Track, where bicycle races were held every Sunday at the end of the 19th century.

Zyrel Abrahan, Inquirer Research

BDO Private Bank

Transform savings into wealth.

BDO Private Bank.

We have investments that can help you accumulate wealth.

BDO Private Bank can broaden your portfolio to transform your savings into wealth.

Our trusted professional advisors will gladly map out a wealth advisory program — a customized portfolio of diversified investment opportunities based on your personal goals and style of risk management. Your tangible, predictable path to accumulating wealth will be set.

Start the journey to wealth building.
Take that step today.

Contact us at 8404000
or send us a message at wealthservices@bdo.com.ph

We find ways®

NBI looking for computer sales agent who swindled woman of ₱1.6M

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation (NBI) has launched a hunt for a computer company sales agent who allegedly swindled a local surveying firm out of ₱1.6 million in cash.

This was after NBI Special Task Force (STF) officials filed charges of estafa and violation of Batas Pambansa 22 or the anti-bouncing checks law against Admor Navarro, an employee of E.S. Machines and a resident of Bacoor, Cav. Mesa, with the Manila City Prosecutor's Office.

NBI-STF executive officer Atty. Vic Vidal the case against Navarro was based on a complaint lodged by Celina Mendiola, a technical marketing specialist of Geo-Surveys and Imaging Inc. (GSIII).

In her complaint, Mendiola said that sometime in July 2001 when she was still head of the GSIII management information system, she met Navarro who was offering computer supplies in different companies.

10 percent profit

In September 2007, Mendiola said Navarro convinced her to source her money in computer supplies in exchange for a 10 percent profit.

She added that in August 2008, she invested a total of P1.6 million in Navarro's business after the latter told her that she had struck a deal with several buyers.

Mendiola said Navarro promised to give her her share of the profits by the end of the month but failed to do so. She also did her deposit 9798,0000 in the victim's bank accounts as the had promised.

Two months later, Navarro asked Mendiola to give her more time to count the profits due her.

Insufficient funds

In February, Navarro issued her a check for P1.6 million but the bank refused to cash it due to insufficient funds.

Mendiola said she then talked to Navarro and even wrote to him, demanding that her investment be returned to her, but the latter refused to talk to her or even reply to her letters, prompting her to file a complaint with the NBI.

Despite a subpoena from the NBI, Navarro reportedly refused to appear before the agency to air his side.

This led the agency to file a case against her for estafa and violation of the antibouncing checks law.

Nokia Cinemaiksi final competition to be held in Subic

By Joel V. Rigos

RESIDENTS of Walkerville Compound, a depressed area in the Barangay Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City search through the remains of their houses, looking for things they could salvage. A fire struck the area on Monday night, raging for almost five hours before it was placed under control.

700 families lose homes in huge fire in Mandaluyong City

By Dj Yap

HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES WILL SPEND A cold Christmas after they lost their homes in a huge fire that razed a depressed area in Mandaluyong City on Monday night.

Some 500 houses were destroyed and P6 million worth of property went up in smoke after a blaze which raged for nearly five hours struck Block 37 on Pantaleg Street, Walkerville Compound in Barangay Addition Hills, fire officials said.

Chief Insp. Nelson Taruesa of the Mandaluyong Fire Department said the fire originated from the shanty of Veronica Arsenal, who reportedly had her electrical connection disconnected before the blaze.

"She apparently used a gas lamp which sparked the fire," Taruesa said, adding that the investigators had not yet found material evidence they wanted to question.

In all, some 798 families were displaced. They spent the night in a temporary evacuation center at Isabela Elementary School where they received food and relief items city hall.

Senior Insp. Ferdinand Semsen said the fire was first reported at 6:45 p.m. and reached the general alarm at 7:18 p.m.

A general alarm means the deployment of all available fire trucks in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces to douse a fire.

It was put out at 11:50 p.m.

Semsen said firefighters had a hard time reaching the area as the alleys were too narrow and the disaster-crammed together.

Semsen said that previously, their had been an road leading inside the settlement until one was constructed by City Hall, still, firefighters were prevented from reaching the site immediately because of road obstructions.

Globe bags nine Quill Awards

Globe, a leading telecommunications company in the Philippines, won nine awards in the recently concluded Philippine Quill Awards, the country's most prestigious and relevant awards for business communications.

Recognizing Globe's excellence in corporate social responsibility (CSR) communication management, the Company bagged three Excellence awards for the following programs: Globe Bridging Communities Enterprise Development Program, Globe Internet-in-Schools Program, and Sagot ka ni Kap! program. On the other hand, the following Globe CSR programs received Merit awards: Globe Bridging Communities Program, Disaster Response Program, Globe BridgeCom Employee Volunteerism, From Philanthropy to Globe's Sustainability Communication Strategy, and Globe BridgeCom Entrepreneurship Fair.

In addition, Globe also received recognition in the area of communication management (government relations) with its 3-Way Avenue Connect entry grabbing a Merit award.

Presented by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), the Philippine Quill Awards recognizes the best practices and the highest level of achievement by Philippine-based professional communicators in Communication Management, Core Skills, and Creatives.

On hand to receive the awards from Globe are, from left: Corporate and Regulatory Affairs Group Head Atty. Carlos Dominguez, Corporate Communications Head Yoly Crisanto, Public Relations Deputy Head Andy Bongcac, Employee Programs Head Wilson Casey, and Segment Business Head for Overseas Filipino Communities Alan Supnet. With them are IABC Directors Carmencita Arca and Rey Anthony Silerio (2nd & 3rd from left).

METROBRIEFS

READY TO SERVE

Thirty-nine Skyway personnel pose with their instructors and Skyway O & M Corp. (Soma) officials after completing the one-month motorcycle riding course aimed at improving their riding skills. The one-month training, which was conducted by a Philippine National Police Highway Patrol Group headed by SPO4 Osana Ibarja, was aimed at improving Soma's response in toll way traffic situations by improving the motorcycle riding capabilities of its traffic, security and safety men. Soma is the operator of Skyway.

Chefs in Manila

TO CELEBRATE ITS 13th year of culinary education leadership in the country, CCA Manila has partnered with the Institut Paul Bocuse, which was founded and named after "the father of French haute cuisine," an award-winning chef.

Chef Eric Chauvelon, a now in Manila and will spearheads "Bocuse in CCA" gala dinner tonight at Bocuse, the CCA Restaurant School located at Building II, San Miguel by The Bay, SM Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City. At 11 a.m. tomorrow, Chauvelon will preside over a demo, dubbed "Bocuse for your Kitchen," at the CCA Kitchen, 2nd level of the Eastwood Mall. For the culminating activity, he will host a cocktail reception titled "Master Chef Series: Paul Bocuse" on Friday at 6 p.m. at The Sunset Ridge Hotel, Tagaytay City. For inquiries, call CCA Manila at 9644330, 9645540, or e-mail marketing@cca-manila.com, or visit www.cca-manila.com.

Call center agents to launch party

CALL center agents will launch their party-list group, the Association of Call Center Agents of the Philippines (Accap), in Bonifacio City next week as part of their tactics for supporting Congress' 14th Congress' Party-list Elections. Accap, which was formed two years ago, seeks to advance the interests of call center agents, according to Kevin Estenzo, the group's secretary general. Estenzo said they have more than 70,000 members nationwide and there is the only aspiring party list whose members are all computer literate and internet savvy, making it possible for Accap to communicate with its members without the need of physical offices.

Rico J. to run for Makati congressman

By Pachalo Catanpatot
Entertainment

THERE'S A NEW KIND OF POLITICS, one that does not depend on money to win elections, said pop singer Rico J. Puno as he formally announced in a press conference yesterday his bid for the congressional seat of Makati City's first district in next year's polls.

But Puno admitted that he is venturing into the 57th Filipino pop's vibrant presidency, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, reportedly picked Jun to be the party's official candidate because he topped several surveys.

The man who normally holds the post, Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin, is on his last term.

"I didn't really intend to run, but my supporters kept asking me what my plans are," said Puno, who served the city for nine years as a councilor, starting in 1998.

When his term ended, his daughter, Erico Puno-Ramos, ran for councilor and won.

Despite his involvement in politics, Puno, 56, a personality known as a crossover, singer and concert performer—having been in show business for the past 33 years.

"But my track record as a councilor speaks for itself," he pointed out.

Asked by the business value his constituting achievements were, Puno replied that he looked for ways to improve Makati's cavalcade health services program, in which senior citizens get free medical care and hospitalization.

"I also [because] well-versed in the procedures on making ordinances. A councilor is also like a manager," he said.

Puno said that last year, his first thought of running for Congress as an independent candidate. "I thought it was better to seek a national post so that I could help more people. So I went around the communities and consulted barangay captains and other political leaders about my intention."

He said he got a fairly warm response, although there was also some discouraging words. At one time, he was asked point-blank: "May pera ka ba (Do you have money)?"

But Puno, who graduated from the Philippine School of Business Administration, stressed that he believes "sincerity is more important because people know who is sincere or of politics, makiem pa rin. Also, when you don't need to have a lot of money to make people vote for you."

Asked what would he do if he were elected later office, Puno replied: "I want to enhance some more Makati's health care program by adding more equipment and having paramedics, parang sa 911 sa America [just like 911 in the United States]."

He added that he also wants to continue Lucena's Barilan ng Bayan program which offers cheaper medicines to Makati residents.

But high on his list of things to do is **raise his wife a helping the entertainment** industry by reducing taxes levied against it. "I found out that the Philippines is the only country in Asia which is heavily taxed by the government. The film industry is important because one learns about our culture through our movies, which in turn promotes tourism," Puno said.

When the buyers asked him what he would do with his "pork barrel," Puno replied, its his typical kind of humor: "I will invest it, wave, as in wave with my hands."

Told that enacting jokes might not be good for a government official, Puno said, "You should have a sense of humor when you get elected, otherwise you might put people to sleep."

Cop vs cops . . .

From page A12

Upon learning of the shooting incident, two policemen from the QCPD Station 5, PO2 Joaquin Angid and PO2 Ayub Abdullah, were sent to the area to conduct an investigation.

When they spotted Baharan in a tricycle, the pair got into their patrol car and gave chase.

Gutierrez said that after several minutes, the tricycle suddenly stopped and Baharan got out of the vehicle.

The two policemen, apparently thinking that Baharan had realized his mistake and had decided to surrender, also stopped chasing him.

But as they were getting out of their vehicle, Baharan opened fire on them, triggering a shoot-out.

QCPD Director Chief Supt. Elmo San Diego said he had recommended a posthumous award for Angid and a promotion for Abdullah.

Valenzuela teachers seek hike in benefits

By Beverly T. Natividad

PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS IN VALENZUELA City have asked for a raise in their monthly allowance, saying they have the lowest benefits among their counterparts in Metro Manila.

At present, the city's public school teachers are receiving a monthly stipend of P5,000.

Elmer Soriano, chair of the Teachers' Dignity Coalition (TDC) in Valenzuela City, told the business in an interview that they have sought a meeting on the matter with Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian on Friday.

He said that they have been pushing for an increase in their monthly allowance since 2006 but their request has always been turned down by the city government due to lack of funds.

"Our P5,000 monthly allowance is too low considering the increasing prices of commodities," Soriano added.

He pointed out that their counterparts in some cities in Metro Manila were already receiving additional benefits from local officials.

Elementary and high school teachers in public schools in Taguig City, for example, were entitled to a P2,000 allowance and half a cavan of rice every month.

On the other hand, public school teachers in Navotas were receiving a monthly allowance of P1,500, courtesy of the city government.

Soriano said several lawmakers in Valenzuela had already drafted proposals that would enable the city government to implement an increase in their benefits.

One resolution, for example, pushed for a P200 increase in the teachers' monthly benefits for four years.

Another one sought a P500 monthly raise over a period of two years.

"So far, however, neither proposal has been approved by the city council," said Soriano.

According to him, their group has proposed that the city government source the money needed for the increase in their monthly allowance from the Local School Board fund.

He said the city government could take away funding for certain activities which benefit only a few teachers like the "Unos Olympics" or teachers' sports festival and field trips for instructors.

MMDA chair . . .

From page A12

ber of the ruling Lakas-CMD Kampi, had tried but failed to get his party mates' nod to become the party's standard bearer in next year's elections.

After losing to former Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, Fernando said he might run as an independent candidate.

"The presidency is all about governance so what we need is someone with executive abilities, especially someone who is an engineer since governance is about engineering," the MMDA chair, a mechanical engineer by profession, said.

"If I can manage Metro Manila and transform it, I can also manage the country," he said, adding that he would tackle the problems besetting the country.

Taking a swipe at other presidential candidates, Fernando said the country could not move forward progress through popularity, sympathy and emotions.

"The people must start doing away with [popularity]. They must choose leaders who can get the country out of the hell hole," he stressed, adding, "We have to elect a president who will know what to do on Day One."

BDO Private Bank

Expand your portfolio beyond equities and fixed-income securities.

BDO Private Bank.

We have the expertise that can help you grow and preserve wealth.

BDO Private Bank helps you diversify and expand your portfolio further to preserve your wealth and grow it even more.

Our Open Architecture Philosophy opens doors to investment opportunities that allow you to optimize the performance of your portfolio and customize it to your financial needs and goals.

BDO Private Bank.
Giving you all the strategic financial help
in what we're here for.

Contact us at 888-8388
or send us a message at wealthsolutions@bdo.com.ph

We find ways

ITALIAN Premier dictator Benito Mussolini reviewing troops in photo dated Nov. 11, 1933

Mistress' diary: Mussolini was a fierce anti-Semite

ROME—BENITO MUSSOLINI was a fierce anti-Semite, who personally said that his hatred for Jews preceded Adolf Hitler's and vowed to "destroy them all," according to previously unpublished diaries by the Duce's chauffeur's longtime mistress.

According to the diaries, Mussolini also talked about the many exceptions he received from Hitler at the 1938 Munich conference—he called the German leader a "sniff"—and attacked Pope Pius XI for his criticism of Nazism and Fascism.

On a more intimate note, Mussolini was explicit about his sexual appetites for his mistress and said he suggested having oral sex with other women.

The diaries kept by Claretta Petacci, Mussolini's mistress, between 1932 and 1938 are the subject of a book coming out this week entitled "Secret Mussolini." Excerpts were published on Monday by Italy's leading daily Corriere della Sera and confirmed by publisher Rizzoli.

Historians said the diaries appeared to be convincing and reinforced the image that Mussolini was deeply anti-Semitic, even though early on Hitler was some Jewish support for his Fascist movement. But they contended that there are the claims of the dictator's lover—not Mussolini himself—and therefore must be taken with an extra grain of salt.

Corriere said the diaries shed new light on Mussolini, who had been seen as more ideological toward the Pope and "disliked" even Italy's racial laws, subsidized as widespread persecution of Italian Jews.

Many of the excerpts that were published date to 1938, a crucial year during which Mussolini's Fascist regime passed the racial laws and Europe rushed to appeasement toward Nazi Germany at the Munich conference.

"I have been a racist since 1921. I don't know how they can think I'm imitating Hitler," Mussolini is quoted as boasting in August 1938. "We must give Italians a sense of race."

Italy's racial laws stemmed the rights of Jews and expelled those from government, university and the fields.

In 1943, German troops occupied southern and central Italy, and thousands of Jews were deported. According to some researchers, there were 32,000 Jews in 1938 in Italy, of whom over 8,000 were deported to Nazi concentration camps. AP

UN inspectors fear Iran is hiding nuclear plants

WASHINGTON—INTERNATIONAL inspectors who gained access to Iran's newly revealed underground nuclear enrichment plant voiced strong suspicions in a report on Monday that the country was concealing other secret facilities.

The report was the first independent account of what was uncovered in the open-cast plant, tucked into the side of a mountain, and came as the Obama administration was exploring growing skepticism with Iran's slow response to nuclear negotiations.

In unusually tough language, the International Atomic Energy Agency opposed highly skeptical that Iran would have built the secretive plant without other concealing a variety of other facilities that would give it an alternative way to produce nuclear fuel if its main enrichment was bombed.

As for Iran has denied that it built other hidden sites in addition to the one deep underground in a military base about 30 kilometres the holy city of Qum. The inspectors were given access to the plant but last month and reported that they had found it to "no substantial" of concentration, but that centrifuges—the fast-spinning machines needed to make nuclear fuel—had yet been installed.

The inspectors said Iran had "provided access to all areas of the facility" and planned to complete it by 2011. They also confirmed IAE and European intelligence reports that the site had been built to house about 3,000 centrifuges, enough to produce enough material for one or two nuclear weapons a year. But that is too small to be useful in the production of fuel for civilian nuclear power, which is what Iran insists is the intended purpose of the site.

The report's release just two days after President Barack Obama, on a trip to Asia, said "we are running out of time" for Iran to sign onto a deal to ship part of its nuclear fuel out of the country. He said he would begin to plan for his more stringent economic sanctions against Tehran.

He was joined during that announcement by President Dmitri A. Medvedev of Russia, but Medvedev sent signals about whether Russia was prepared to join in those sanctions. Obama was expected to take up the issue on Tuesday with President Hu Jintao of China, whom Obama is once more visiting. China, like Russia, has historically resisted sanctions on Iran. AFP

Study questions benefit of annual mammographs

WASHINGTON—U.S. HEALTH authorities issued guidelines Monday questioned the benefit of annual screening for breast cancer in women aged 40-49 and recommended only biennial examinations for women over 50.

In an update of its 2002 recommendations, the US Preventive Service Task Force (USPSTF) said "the decision to start regular, biennial screening mammography before the age of 50 years should be an individual one."

After examining data from 600,000 women who underwent routine mammography between 2000 and 2005, the USPSTF concluded that there was "moderate evidence that the net benefit is small for women aged 40 to 49."

The study said screening for breast cancer in the 40-49 age group can often lead to unnecessary surgery, or can fail to detect the cancer altogether.

In an earlier survey, the USPSTF said that in 18 percent to 20 percent of women screened with breast cancer the lesion were not detected by mammography.

In another 18-19 percent of women, the task force added, growths were misdiagnosed as malignant, or cancerous, when they were benign.

Breast cancer is the second-leading cause of death among women in the United States. In 2008, 192,400 women were diagnosed with invasive cancer, 67,770 with noninvasive tumors and 40,480 women died from the disease.

The chances of developing breast cancer are one out of 69 for women aged 40-50, one in 28 for women 50-59, and one in 27 for women 60-70. AFP

INDIVISIBLE, photos of Trishna (left) and Krishna taken in August will joined at the head.

Twins joined at the head successfully separated

MELBOURNE—NINE-MONTH-OLD Indian-born conjoined twins Trishna and Krishna in a Bangladesh orphanage, everyone assumed they would die.

But the girls have gone from living grossly ill-babies to happy 2-year-olds who developed a unique system of crawling, love Australian children's band "The Wiggles" and squabble like normal toddlers.

"They are definitely very happy. They interact with each other, they play with each other, they touch each other and take toys from each other as any toddler would. They love The Wiggles," Noble told AFP.

On Tuesday, Australian surgeons completed marathon surgery to separate the girls' conjoined skulls and brains, raising hopes they will be able to enjoy healthy lives apart.

The operation was a miracle journey from the moment they were greeted with love and bewilderment at the Dhaka orphanage soon after their birth in December 2008.

"It was a bit overwhelming, I think, for everybody," Noble said.

"I suppose a lot of people just thought nothing could be done because the doctor in Dhaka said they couldn't do anything. I think there was resignation that the girls would just live together as long as they could."

But after seeing the twins children in the orphanage around the same time—one from a lung infection and the other from suspected malnutrition—Noble decided the twins had to be saved overseas.

"Those children hadn't survived, those girls hadn't survived, they would get it they stayed in Dhaka," she said. AFP

ALLEN

Microsoft cofounder Paul Allen has cancer

WASHINGTON—BILLIONAIRE PAUL Allen, who founded US software giant Microsoft with Bill Gates in 1975, has been diagnosed with cancer, technology blogs reported on Monday.

Allen, 56, one of the world's richest men in the world, has non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, CNET News and other technology news sites said, quoting a letter from Allen's sister Jody Allen. AFP

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

British scientist unmasked as former call girl

LOS ANGELES—A FORMER PROSTITUTE whose outmoder were turned into the TV series "Secret Diary of a Call Girl" has revealed how true-to-life... Brooke Magnanti, a British research scientist.

Magnanti told British newspaper The Sunday Times that she wrote under the pen name Belle de Jour to describe the extraordinary life had as a high class call girl while she was studying science in the south-east 1950.

She doubted her secret life to a blog from 2003 which then led to a best-selling book. "The intimate adventures of a London call Girl" in 2005, and spawned two more books as well as a TV series starring Billie Piper that is shown in about 23 countries.

Despite many attempts to discover her true identity and questions over whether her memoirs were genuine, Belle de Jour remained anonymous, until Magnanti, 34, finally decided it was time to unmask herself saying she could find peace "in her head."

"It feels so much better on this side. It is to have to tell lies, hide things, from the people I care about. To be able to defend what my experience of sex work is like to all the skeptics and doubters," she wrote in a blog on Sunday.

"Apparently had a purpose then—it will always have a reason to exist, for us here whose work is to be discussing or 'use' sex workers' post-truck memoirs... but for me it became important to acknowledge that aspect of my life and my personality to the world at large."

Magnanti, who lives in Britain's southwest England, is a research scientist who works as a specialist in developmental neuroscology and cancer epidemiology at St. Michael's Hospital in Bristol, employed by the University of Bristol.

She said she worked for 100 pounds ($1000) an hour for 14 months by an escort agency in 2003 but had no regrets about that time. Reuters

POPE Benedict XVI (left) is greeted by an unidentified delegate while arriving at a UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)-hosted security summit in Rome on Nov. 16. REUTERS

Pope decries worsening tragedy of world hunger

ROME—POPE BENEDICT XVI HAS DECRIED the steadily worsening tragedy of world hunger after a global summit rebuffed a UN call to commit billions of dollars a year for a new strategy to help poor countries feed themselves.

The meeting at the UN food and agriculture Organization did unite nearly 200 countries behind efforts to increase aid to farmers in poor countries to help the developing world loosen its dependence on foreign food aid.

Only hours after the three-day summit began, some 60 heads of state and dozens of ministers rejected the UN's call to commit $44 billion annually for agricultural development in these nations. The final declaration also omitted a pledge, sought by the United Nations, to eradicate hunger by 2025.

"Hunger is the most cruel and concrete sign of poverty," Benedict told the delegates Monday after the document was approved. "Injustices and wants are no longer acceptable when the tragedy of hunger is assuming ever greater proportions."

The last previous papal appearance at a food summit in Rome came in 1996, when Pope John Paul II delivered a speech.

UN officials say roughly one billion people—one of every six people on the planet—don't get enough to eat.

At the conference opened, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon told participants it was unacceptable that so many go hungry even though the world has enough food.

Helping the poor becomes self-sufficient lies at the core of food security, he said. "Our job is not just to feed the hungry, but to empower the hungry to feed themselves."

FAO, which is hosting the conference at its headquarters, says the share of international aid that is allocated to agriculture has steadily declined over the last three decades. Helping the hungry has largely resulted with countries sending food assistance rather than technology, irrigation help, fertilizer or high-yield seed. Much of this food aid is purchased from the wealthy nations' own farmers. AP

49M Americans report lack of food

WASHINGTON—THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS who lived in households that lacked consistent access to adequate food soared last year, to 49 million, the highest since the government began tracking what it calls "food insecurity" 14 years ago, the Department of Agriculture reported on Monday.

The increase, of 13 million Americans, was much larger than even the most pessimistic observers of hunger trends had expected.

Almost a third of those struggling households suffered what the researchers called "very low food security," the most severe form measured, meaning lack of money forced some members to skip meals, eat less than they should or otherwise forgo food at some point during the year.

The other two-thirds typically had enough to eat, but only by eating cheaper or less varied foods, relying on government aid like food stamps, or visiting food pantries and soup kitchens.

"These numbers are a wake-up call for the country," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

One figure that drew officials' attention was the number of households, 506,000, in which children faced "very low food security": up from 323,000 the previous year. President Barack Obama, who has pledged to end childhood hunger by 2015, released a statement while traveling in Asia that called the finding "particularly troubling."

Though researchers at the Agriculture Department do not use the word "hunger," Obama did. "Hunger rose significantly last year," he said.

Analysts said the main reason for the growth was the rise in the unemployment rate, to 7.2 percent at the end of 2008 from 4.9 percent a year earlier. And since it now stands at 10.2 percent, the stories might in fact understate the number of Americans struggling to get adequate food.

Problems gaining access to food were highest in households with children headed by single mothers, about 37 percent of them reporting some form of food insecurity, compared with 14 percent of married households with children. AFP

San Marino Corned Tuna is SM Supermarket's best tri-media campaign

San Marino Corned Tuna, the latest product innovation of CDO-Foodsphere Inc., was adjudged having the best tri-media campaign by SM Supermarket during the 26th annual golden cart awards held at the Oceana San Miguel by the Bay, Pasay City on October 21, 2009. Shown in photo are (from left) Herbert Sy, President of SM Supermarket; Maria Crisostomo, CDO-Foodsphere's Business Development Manager; George Sycip, CDO-Foodsphere's National Sales Manager; Jerome Ong, CDO-Foodsphere's President; Ebenezer Oliveros, CDO-Foodsphere's Key Accounts Specialist; Irene Dee, SM Supermarket's Assistant Vice President and Joey Mendoza, SM Supermarket's Head for Marketing. The food manufacturing firm was also cited for its excellence in account management.

BDO Private Bank

Preserve your wealth across generations.

BDO Private Bank.

We have wealth management expertise that transcends boundaries and spans generations.

BDO Private Bank creates bespoke trust, tax, and estate planning arrangements designed with the best possible combination of strategies of passing on your legacy and growing it even more.

Investment possibilities seem endless with our Open Architecture Philosophy that allows you to choose the best investment options, no matter where in the world.

BDO Private Bank. What you need to pass on the heritage of a lifetime.

Contact us at 840-4200
or send us a message at wealthservices@bdomail.com.ph

We find ways®

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Gocco

Hu, Obama pledge to unite vs world's toughest crises

BEIJING—US PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA AND CHINA'S HU Jintao on Tuesday pledged to apply their joint political might to the world's toughest problems, but friction was evident on Tibet, economics and Iran.

In solemn talks at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, the high point of Obama's debut visit to China, the leaders ploughed through an agenda packed with top world crises, reflecting China's rise as a key global player.

He vowed to work for "positive, cooperative and comprehensive" ties with Obama's administration, and the US leader, seeking to cement his early relationship with Beijing, skipped the usual diplomatic formula word for word.

The pair voiced agreement on the need for action on climate change, **pledging North Korea back on six-party** nuclear talks and a common understanding to help restore the global economy to growth after the dark economic crisis.

But the leaders' nuanced statements pointed to differences between two competing powers deeply interlinked economically and repeatedly thrust together on diplomatic crises on which they have differing views.

After their talks, they appeared together to read formal statements to news of hundred journalists.

While both leaders sought to stress areas of agreement, they did not shirk from subtly hinting at issues where gaps remained.

Hu told Obama for instance they needed to "oppose and reject protectionism in all its manifestations." Washington has angered Beijing by slapping tariffs recently on Chinese tire exports and preliminary duties on some steel products.

He added the two sides would need continued "consultations on an equal footing to properly resolve economic and trade frictions."

Both sides said they opposed protectionism in a written joint statement.

Obama, tactfully voicing US worries that China's vast currency is being kept artificially low to boost Chinese exports, said he welcomed "just movement" by Beijing to pursue a market-oriented exchange rate "over time."

That choice of language left open the possibility He had made no fresh **offer of action which Obama said** would make "an essential contribution" to rebalancing the global economy—code for wresting China off export led growth.

On Iran, Obama warned that if Tehran did not "present and demonstrate its peaceful intentions" with its nuclear program, it would face "consequences."

But He was less adamant, saying only the issue needed to be solved through "dialogue and negotiations."

Obama, who angered China by declining to meet the Dalai Lama before traveling to Beijing, pointedly raised the issue of Tibet.

"We did note that while we recognize that Tibet is part of the People's Republic of China, the United States supports the early resumption of dialogue between the Chinese government and representatives of the Dalai Lama," he said. AFP

US President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao in Beijing on Nov. 17. AFP

Study: Slow walkers more likely to die of heart disease

NEW YORK—SLOW WALKING MAY NOT only mean getting to your destination later but it could also be taking its toll on your health, according to a French study.

Researchers from the Paris-based medical research institute Inserm found that older people who walk slowly are almost three times more likely to die of heart disease and related causes than older people who walk faster.

"The main message for the general population is that maintaining fitness at older age may have important consequences and help preserve life and [muscle] functions," researcher Alexis Elbaz, director of research at Inserm, said.

He said the study, which appeared in the journal BMJ, also suggests that a test of walking speed might be used to test the health of elderly patients.

Previous studies had linked slow walking speed with increased risk of death over a given period, as well as with falls and other bad health outcomes, but hadn't shown whether it was heart disease or another cause that accounted for that higher risk.

The five-year study part of Inserm's ongoing Three City Study, involved more than 7,000 relatively fit men and women, aged 65 to 80, living in three French cities.

When explains the link between slow walking speed and death from heart disease? Elbaz said one possibility is that the same risk factors that raise heart disease risk—high blood pressure and diabetes—also cause "silent strokes" that make it hard to walk fast. Reuters

US Army to probe career of alleged Fort Hood shooter

WASHINGTON—THE ARMY WILL CONduct an internal investigation to examine whether it missed warning signs about Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, the man accused of killing 13 people in the Nov. 5 shooting spree at Fort Hood, Texas, two newspapers reported on Monday.

Citing anonymous officials, The Wall Street Journal said the probe would focus on Hasan's six years at Washington's Walter Reed Medical Center, where he worked as a psychiatrist before his case was transferred to the Fort Hood Army post in July.

The Washington Post reported that Gen. George W. Casey Jr., the Army's chief of staff, is forming the investigative panel. It "will look heightedingly across Hasan's entire career to figure out how did this happen and what can we do to stop it from happening again," an anonymous Army official told the Post.

The shooter who oversaw Hasan's medical training had discussed in a meeting concerns about Hasan's overly zealous religious views and strange behavior months before the attack, a military official told The Associated Press last week. Hasan also was characterized as a mediocre student and lazy worker, but the doctors saw no evidence that he was violent or a threat. The military official spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to speak publicly about the meeting.

The FBI learned late last year of Hasan's repeated contact with a radical Muslim cleric in Yemen who encouraged Muslims to kill US troops in Iraq, President Barack Obama already has ordered a review of all intelligence related to Hasan and whether the information was properly shared and acted upon within government agencies.

The Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee on Thursday will hold its first public hearing about the incident. Obama on Saturday urged Congress to hold off on any investigations, pleading for lawmakers to "resist the temptation to turn this tragedy into the political theater."

In Col. Richard Spinrad, an Army spokesperson, would not confirm the Army probe but told the Journal: "We're going to take a hard look at ourselves and the nonclinical aspects of this case. We are still developing what that hard look is going to look like." AP

EU joins US in new calls for reforms in Afghanistan

BRUSSELS—THE European Union joined the United States on Monday in fresh calls on Afghanistan to commit to political reforms, saying the shape of the new government would determine how well the EU could work with Kabul.

Sweden, which holds the EU presidency, warns quick implementation of an EU plan to stimulate economic development and curb corruption in Afghanistan, where Nato-led forces are struggling to contain a widening Taliban insurgency.

US President Barack Obama is on a nine-day trip to Asia, and his aides have also ramped up pressure on Afghanistan and Pakistan to cooperate with Washington's strategy against Islamist militants.

DISTRICT leaders attend a promise-keeping in the town of Pul-i-alam, Logar Province, Afghanistan, on Nov. 14 to discuss public projects. r

Afghanistan announced on Monday it was forming a new anticorruption unit.

World attention has focused on the legitimacy of President Hamid Karzai's new government after a fraud-marred election.

Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt said the lineup of Karzai's new government would demonstrate how well the international community could assist Kabul, but stopped short of suggesting the EU and would be conditional.

"But I would say the way in which [Karzai] appoints his government is going to be of importance for the way in which we are able to work in different sectors," he told reporters.

On Sunday, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton bluntly warned Karzai that he and his government must do better and that Washington and Afghanistan's other allies wanted to see tangible evidence of the fight against rampant corruption in Afghanistan.

EU institutions and the 27 member states provide Afghanistan with nearly 1 billion euros ($1.5 billion) in civilian aid annually. Reuters

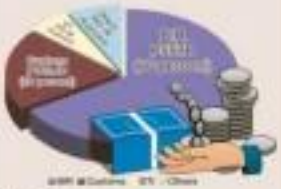
Lito Rud O. Maralit • Associate Editor Corrie S. Manona

BUSINESS

Ortigas allots ₱100B for 10-yr dev't plan

INQUIRER MONITOR

Government collected P643 B in revenues (January to September 2009)



Property firm aims to become the 'Ayala of the North'

By Dawn L. Laza

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER ORTIGAS & CO. HAS EMBARKED ON an aggressive redevelopment program for its biggest properties to maximize the values of its central business district.

In an interview, company CEO Jose C. Dizon Jr. said the four flagship projects of the privately held firm would have an investment value of approximately P20 billion each—for a total of P100 billion in investments.

The first project, which recently broke ground, is the Circuit Nuvo master-planned residential community along Calle Industria in Bagumbayan, Quezon City.

The first phase of construction for the project, which has been allotted ₱5 billion, includes the construction of five residential towers on 2.7 hectares of the 12-hectare property.

This project will eventually house up to 3,000 residents as well as some retail outlets," said Dizon.

The privately held property firm also recently completed a deal with the Bataan provincial government that saw a new provincial capital built—at the company's expense—in Antipolo City.

The homelot-based up One 20-hectare site of the former provincial capitol along Silver Boulevard in Subic Bay which had originally belonged to Ortigas & Co. Under the original deal between the government and the firm, the property would be returned to the

ORTIGAS B7

10-month BOP surplus hits $4.17B

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SURPLUS IN THE COUNTRY'S balance of payments (BOP) continued to widen in October, aided by the foreign exchange inflows arising from borrowings by the national government and remittances from Filipinos overseas.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that the BOP posted a surplus of $999 million in October, a swing from the deficit of $1.2 billion in the same month last year. The latest BOP figure was also better than the surplus of $542 million registered last September.

For the first nine months of the year, the BOP stood as a surplus of $4.17 billion, nearly 12 times more than the surplus of only $345 million in the same period a year ago.

This kept the economy on track in meeting the central bank's official projection of a BOP surplus of between $4 billion and $5 billion by the end of this year.

The BOP is the difference between the foreign currencies flowing in and out of the country. A surplus in the BOP increases the country's gross international reserves (GIR), which is the total amount of foreign exchange managed by the

GENOVEVA S2

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Six firms interested** in managing SCTEx /B2
- **Phoenix to sell** up to 10% stake to SSS /B6
- **Gov't junks treasury** bond bids /B8

CURRENCIES

HONG KONG
PESO EXCHANGE RATE
₱6.70 = $1
as of 4 p.m. Nov. 17, 2009
¥8.84 = $1
As of 4 p.m. Nov. 17, 2009

STOCK MARKET
PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Blue chips lift market

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.65 PERCENT higher yesterday as investors dumped overbought mining issues in favor of blue chips, dealers said.

The composite index added 30.73 points to 3,032.39, while the all shares index added 0.67 percent or 12.68 points to 1,900.07 points.

BOB CHIPS B1

PATEK PHILIPPE
GENEVE

You never actually own a Patek Philippe.
You merely look after it for the next generation.

Calatrava Ref. 5296G
Calatrava cufflinks

Luzerner Shangri-La Plaza Mall
Patek Philippe Boutique
Space: 1-4000 and 1-4010 Greenbelt 5 Ayala Center, Makati City

Not too easy, MVP

THE DEBATE OVER WHETHER the group of Manuel V. Pangilinan should make a tender offer to other shareholders of Manila Electric Co. is just heating up, and it will likely escalate if and when the Philippine Stock Exchange, as an institution, shares the view of one of its directors...a very influential one—that the 800-foot PLDT/Meralco Pacific group should do just that.

Will Metro and Ayalas dare take Manny Pangilinan before the SEC should accept the PLDT/Meralco Pacific group to make a tender offer based on his personal view, the agency that the deal with the Lopezes that matched the P500-per-share surprise buyout offer of Henry Sy & should trigger the requirement? She urged DOF to get his lawyers ready for one tough legal battle (See story on page B3.)

Based on the earlier position adopted by the SEC in Metro Corp.—when it resisted that Miguel Corp. tender a tender offer when it bought an option from Metro Pacific to take a controlling stake in the oil refinery—there's a good chance that the local bourse will adopt Pangilinan's position.

The new arena for debate is therefore the securities and Exchange Commission, which in the case of Petron, has taken the view that Miguel's no-need yet for San Miguel to make a tender offer if it hasn't exercised the option yet.

But unlike the case of San Miguel in Petron (which only holds the option), the PLDT/MPIC group already holds 24.7 percent in Meralco—just a fraction short of the 35-percent trigger.

So will MVP be required to make a tender offer soon, or at least when the group exercises the call option (even when it does so beyond the 12-month period)? That's for regulators, and maybe the courts, to determine.

Meanwhile, Pangilinan said that he has another one to grind as the was "disappointed" when MVP previously talked about Meralco being "restructured" when they group itself was buying at P200+/share at that time. And having additional shares at that price now, but not from the public.

—Doris C. Dumlao

Biz Buzz
By the staff

The riverside 'urban legend'

MEGHAGROUP Holdings Inc., a unit of the PLDT-founded Trust Fund, says no problem taking control of ABC Development Corp. and operator of Channel 5 (which also has radio operations) and broadcaster Philippine Star at the same time.

The unconfirmed line says no one's minding that people are talking about a so-called "urban legend" says PLDT president Ray Espinosa. Nowhere in the 2006 Constitution can you find any provision prohibiting ownership in more media forms—a view that has been affirmed by the SC Law Center for now.

Furthermore, Espinosa is the topnotcher's seen no legal impediment for the PLDT group to seek a congressional franchise to be able to claim ownership of MCS.

That means the only major hurdle for the group is how to finance a more serious broadcasting player and break the Espinosa-Lopez duopoly.

The public—MA and ABS-CBN—it looks like the group will be kept private until for now. Espinosa says there is no intention to bid in ABC's unit Metro Pacific Investment Corp.'s 82 percent owned diamond unit, Prime Media Holdings Inc. Company no representation has officially finded's Prime Media only (in some say it will be cheaper for the group to buy ABC-5 as related entity). Espinosa says there's no need to do so.

"It just so happened that it has the same name as the Malaysian black tower [that sold out of ABC-5 along with Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco," Espinosa says. Doris C. Dumlao

Biggest buyout dare

A BOP months ago, the Bats is paused the alleged silk between the Filipino and Chinese investors in Iloilo newly privatized Treasury. But in reality, Treasury insiders say, infighting is also rife between Filipino shareholders Cohen (High Power Corp) and Manila Oto Resources Group, which owns 30 percent shares—for a total stake of 60 percent—in the Grand Grid Corporation of the Philippines (GGCP).

According to our sources, the rift late grew from bad to worse with representatives of each camp unable to stand even the sight of each other. The situation has become so intractable that Cohen, if reports are to be believed, allegedly dared Manila Oto to buy out its 20 percent stake or triple its original investment (a whopping P167 billion, based on its P55-billion share of the winning bid). Manila Oto, however, would only go as high as offering Cohen a "double-your-money" buy out (or about P111 billion).

With Manila Oto unwilling to call its executive partner's bluff, the Bidwel Corporate Ltd. Cohen is now poised to make what could be the single-biggest purchase in local corporate history as it is reportedly eyeing a buyout of Manila Oto by mid-November, four months ahead of the agreed March 2010 deadline.

Will this usher Cayetan's return as BP's takeover king? Bonnie L. Lanot

Guess who!

TSBI Cabinet official was allegedly the brains behind Malacañang's recently revoked Executive Order 800, which imposed a price cap on petroleum products at their Oct. 11 levels despite the spiraling cost of crude oil in the international market.

The policy stand, dubbed all across oil economic sanity had driven oil companies insane three last few weeks, especially with pole-sitters of every stripe jumping on the popular "let's use the profiteering" call bus to no-go field. Bonnie L.

The oil firms were (and still are)

Six firms interested in managing SCTEx

Bidders to include Metro Pacific, San Miguel, Citra Group

By Abigail L. Ho

SIX FIRMS HAVE EXPRESSED interest in partnering with the Subic Convention Development Authority for the management, operation and maintenance of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway.

In a statement issued yesterday, BCDA vice president for finance and chief of the asset disposition program committee Victor Zaldua said among those that purchased the terms of reference for the building and attended the pre-bid conference last week were Ideas Pacific Infrastructure Development Corp., San Miguel Corp., Citra Group through Advantage, Sta. Miguel Corp., Aeroports de Paris and JLAPCE Transportation Networks Ltd.

Under the terms of reference, he said the lease or concession agreement for the SCTEx would span 35.5 years, or from April 28, 2010, to Oct. 30, 2045.

The winning bidder would be responsible for funding the operational requirements of the country's longest tolling including its management, operations and maintenance.

The private would likewise be charged with securing the necessary funds for the conduct of periodic maintenance activities on the tollway, special, major, emergency and short-related works, as well as insurance.

BCDA's eventual partner would also be tasked with the provision of management services, toll collection, traffic safety and security management, routine toll-road maintenance including landscaping and grassworks, and other related services.

As BCDA's partner in running the SCTEx, the winning bidder would have to pay the government from a semi-annual concession fee of either the gross equivalent of BCDA's pro-determined rates, including all financing charges, 10 years prior to due date, or 20 percent of audited gross revenues, whichever is higher.

The toll payment option should be accompanied by a first-year rolling letter of credit.

The P27 billion-SCTEx was 81 percent funded by a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, now International Cooperation Agency. The 15-percent balance came from BCDA.

Zaldua said the deadline for the submission of proposals and eligibility documents is Dec. 2, with the opening of the financial bids scheduled for Dec. 4.

The notice of award to the winning bidder would be issued on Dec. 22 and the notice to proceed on Jan. 27, 2010, he said.

The 94.7-kilometer SCTEx is considered the country's largest and most modern expressway. Traversing the provinces of Bataan, Pampanga and Tarlac, the SCTEx provides a direct link between the Subic Bay Freeport Zone and the Clark Special Economic Zone.

With the SCTEx, travel time from Clark to Subic has been reduced to 40 minutes, and from Clark to Tarlac to just 25 minutes.

MarkenH
MARKETING AND FEELINGS, INC.

JOSIAH GO'S 76TH MARKETING STRATEGY AND PLANS

December 3 - 4, 2009 (Thursday - Friday)
8:30 AM to 5:30 PM, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Quezon City

Outthink, outmaneuver and outsell your competition in these challenging times. Incorporate new insights, indispensable lessons and entrepreneurial mindset in your 2010 Marketing Plan—From the Number 1 Marketing Trainer, Josiah Go, in the longest-running Marketing Strategy course in the Philippines.

PLANNING IS 50% KNOWING THE RIGHT PROBLEM AND 50% FINDING THE RIGHT SOLUTION. It is important to know who your target market is and what your marketing mix can offer. But do you really know? Do you know what could be a source of your strength versus competition or are you fighting a losing battle? Learn what it takes to define marketing leadership in your industry and how to formulate strategies on how to get there.

Dec. 1-2, 2009 — 1st E-Marketing Strategies Series: Developing Your Digital Marketing Plan For 2010 by Donald Lim
Dec. 2-3, 2009 — 71st Dr. Ned Roberts's Applied Marketing Research
Dec. 3-4, 2009 — 14th Client Centric Selling by Rowen Umbers
Dec. 8-9, 2009 — 20th Marketing and Sales Implementation by Chiqui Encarnal-Go
Dec. 9-10, 2009 — 13th Managing a Successful Distributor Operation by Emilio Manzanal-III

Jan. 19-20, 2010 — 8th Market-Driving Strategies by Josiah Go
Jan. 19-20, 2010 — 30th Key Account Management by Emilio Manzanal-III
Jan. 29-21, 2010 — 6th Do-It-Yourself Marketing Research on a Shoestring Budget by Dr. Ned Roberts
Jan. 29-21, 2010 — 40th Effective Negotiation and Influencing Skills by Rowen Umbers
Jan. 22, 2010 — 4th Energizing Your Sales Force through Positive Communication by Chiqui Encarnal-Go
Jan. 27-28, 2010 — 8th Delivering Outstanding Service by Chiqui Encarnal-Go
Jan. 28, 2010 — 12th Marketing on a Shoestring Budget by Bernadette Ocl

Reserve and confirm your place early and ENJOY SPECIAL DISCOUNTS for early bird savings and group registration. Please call Jay Gonzales or Rosa Tolentino at (02) 584-5000 / 584-6000 / 730-2040 / 410-8034, text 09155-01-188-88, email us at info@marsenstih.net, or visit us at www.marsenstih.net. We are located at 14 Sangi-Sangi St., SF Waters Center, New Manila, Quezon City 1112.

MarkenH
MARKETING AND FEELINGS, INC.
ABENSON

San Miguel to put up bottling, ice cream plants in Laguna

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SAN MIGUEL GROUP IS putting up a new beer bottling plant and its very first Magnolia ice cream factory in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, for a combined investment of about P1.35 billion as part of the expansion of core beer and food businesses.

San Miguel Brewery Inc. president Roberto Huang said San Miguel Pure Foods Co. Inc. president Francisco Ako-Ong Ui yesterday broke ground on a new evaporation plant for corn beer and food businesses.

San Miguel Brewery Inc. president Roberto Huang said San Miguel Pure Foods Co. Inc. president Francisco Ako-Ong Ui yesterday broke ground on a new evaporation plant for corn beer and food businesses.

Huang said SMB was spending "more or less P1 billion" to put up the new bottling plant, which should be operational by next year.

He said the new plant is part of the first phase of SMB's P16.8 billion in retail bonds at the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp. that the growth in beer sales was still being driven by the C-D income segment, but noted that the take-up by the A-B segments was also improving.

Meanwhile, Ako-Ong said that San Miguel's food group had invested P500 million in the new ice cream plant, which should also start operations next year.

He said the new plant, San Miguel Pure Foods's first ice cream plant, would produce five million gallons of Magnolia ice cream a year.

At present, San Miguel's Magnolia ice cream is the third-biggest producer of frozen delights locally with an estimated market share of 12 percent. However, it is only now that it will put up its own ice cream plant as it has been producing ice cream in the past through toll manufacturing, an agreement in which a firm (which has a specialized equipment) processes raw materials, which are finished goods for another firm.

Backed by the San Miguel group's vast distribution network, Ako said he would like to see Magnolia ice cream soon becoming the leading ice cream brand in the country.

Meanwhile, Ako added that talks were still ongoing on the sale of San Miguel Pure Foods to a new investor. He said many foreign investors expressed interest in buying into the company.

He was earlier reported that, among the foreign companies that were in talks with the San Miguel group was Minnesota-based Hormel Foods Corp.

As of yesterday's close, San Miguel Pure Foods has a market capitalization of about P9.4 billion, of which P6.2 billion is from the issuance of "B" shares, which are open to Filipino and foreign investors. Based on current prices, San Miguel can raise at least P4.6 billion from the sale of a 49-percent stake in the consolidated food unit.

In the first nine months of the year, San Miguel's food business recorded a sales revenue of P65.9 billion, 6 percent higher than a year ago, while operating income increased 51 percent to P5.31 billion.

10-month BOP surplus hits $4.17B

Front page B1

central bank and indicates a country's external liquidity position.

As of end-September, the country's GIR stood to an all-time high of $42.2 billion.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the BOP surplus in October was boosted partly by the national government's sale of $1 billion worth of global bonds. Proceeds of the bonds were meant to plug the government's estimated budget deficit of about P300 billion for 2009 and settle maturing obligations.

The government likewise borrowed $200 million from the Asian Development Bank in October. The money was used mainly to cover the increased expenditure requirements to jump-prime the economy and to rehabilitate areas affected by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng."

Remittances were also robust during the month, according to the BSP chief. Despite the recession in some host countries, global demand for Filipino labor remained strong and remittances continued to grow, the BSP said.

Blue chips lift market

Front page B1

Turnover reached 2.71 billion shares worth P3.61 billion with 86 losers up, 46 down and 62 others unchanged.

The peso traded at an average of 46.608 to the dollar.

"We're aligned with the rest of Asia today, unlike yesterday when the market overreacted on a headline," Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities told Dow Jones Newswires.

"That problem is valuation, some stocks are already expensive," he added.

Among the most actively traded stocks, Metro Pacific Investments rose 7.41 percent to P0.98 while Metrobank added 2.3 percent to P66.50.

Century Peak Metal Holdings fell 6.9 percent to P5.40 and Philex Mining was down 1.75 percent to P14. AFP

SEC, PSE to tackle possible tender offer for Meralco

By Doris C. Dumlao and Paolo Montecillo

THE SECURITIES AND EXchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange are separately evaluating whether the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co./Metro Pacific Investments Corp. group should be required to make a tender offer to other shareholders of Manila Electric Co.

The debate on the tender offer requirement came after the group led by Manuel V. Pangilinan signed an agreement with the Lopezes to acquire an additional 9.7 percent stake in Meralco at P880 a share but in the form of an option that can be exercised any time before the end of March next year. This increased a previous buyout offer by Hastings Holdings Inc. to 30 percent of the Lopezes' remaining 33.4-percent stake in Meralco if the same price.

"We have to check all the documents and disclosures, gather all the documents," SEC Commissioner Joaquin Castro told reporters.

"You have to look at the intent, the purpose, if there's only one party, if it's a group," Castro said.

Under the law, any person or group of persons acting in concert who intends to acquire at least 35 percent of any class of shares of public companies, or a [illegible] bank or [illegible]

Amazing! nComputing
TURN 1 PC INTO 30 PC's
P4,950
QuickBooks QB
GET IT NOW!
LOAN PROBLEMS?
We can help you!!!
DIOMAMPO CONSULTING CORPORATION
SECURE YOUR HARD-EARNED YUAN.
Chinese Yuan (Renminbi) Account
Introducing the country's first Chinese Yuan (Renminbi) Savings and Time Deposit Accounts.
Metrobank
You're in good hands.

Green chemistry awards on its second year

CHEMREZ
GREEN CHEMISTRY AWARDS
www.chemrez.com
Giving recognition to proponents of "eco-friendly" products & processes.

Phoenix to sell up to 10% stake to SSS

By Amy R. Borlaza

PHOENIX PETROLEUM PHILIPPINES INC. has entered into a subscription agreement with state-owned Social Security System for the possible sale of up to 10 percent of the oil company's outstanding shares.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Phoenix corporate secretary Socorro Isidro Cabreros said that for the initial tranche, the SSS had subscribed 7.5 million common shares at P9.80 per share or an total of P42 million with an "option" (taking not to dispose, transfer or sell the subscribed shares for six months from the date of purchase."

"While the agreement provides for the aggregate purchase of up to 10 percent of the company's outstanding capital stock, the total actual purchase of 7.5 million common shares is only about 2.65 percent of the outstanding capital stock at present," Cabreros said.

The agreement is valid for one year from the date of execution. The SSS is also expected to notify the company at least 15 days prior to the subsequent purchases at a price agreed by the parties but in no case less than the par value of the share.

However, Cabreros said there was no guarantee that subsequent primary issuances to the SSS would bring the aggregate purchases to the ceiling of 10 percent.

"Any prospective member of shares to be subscribed would depend on market conditions and will entirely be at the discretion of the SSS," Cabreros added.

The common shares up for sale will be taken from the unissued shares of Phoenix. Petroleum, its base with the oil company's objective to enhance its capital.

According to Phoenix, its board has approved "the management's recommendation to pursue more business opportunities which include the establishment of depots in strategic locations and expansion of the retail network operations to nationwide at the least possible cost for the company."

Phoenix Petroleum has been looking for prospective business partners and financial investors who could help the oil company in its bid to become the number one independent player in the retail fuel business.

SEC, PSE to tackle . . .

From page B1

month period, is obliged to make a tender of for to all the stockholders at the same price.

The PSE, for its part, will likely discuss the matter to the board next, Bostra director Vivian Yuchengco said.

But Yuchengco said her personal view was that the tender transaction should not be exempt from the mandatory tender offer the need that Pangilinan's group clearly acted "in concert" in order to obtain additional shares in Rhodex.

After this transaction, the PLDT/Metro Pacific group will be able to raise its stake in Rhodex from 34.7 percent to 41.4 percent.

Yuchengco added that San Miguel Corp., who bought exception to acquire a controlling stake in Petron Corp., would have to make a tender offer too when it exercises that option.

"There is no exemption in the rule," Yuchengco said.

Yuchengco said the PSE was still collating the documents but has yet to come up with an official recommendation.

The state-owned Government Service Insurance System has already threatened to pursue "all civil, criminal and administrative remedies, as may be available" if Pangilinan's group would not make the tender offer.

"While the transaction was disguised as a loan coupled with a call option over the Rhodex shares, such another was obviously resorted to for the sole purpose of circumventing the tender offer requirement of the law," GSIS chief legal counsel Estrella Bautista-Alcuaz said in a recent letter to Pangilinan dated June 11.

PLDT yesterday said the call for the Pangilinan led group to offer to buy out minority shareholders of Rhodex had no legal basis.

"The statement of Ms. Vivian Yuchengco has no legal basis. It finds no support in the law and in the applicable regulations," Ray Espinosa, head of the PLDT Regulatory Affairs and Policy group, said in a text message.

RULES AND REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE PERSONAL EQUITY AND RETIREMENT ACCOUNT (PERA) ACT OF 2008

the Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC) or its equivalent document issued by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

b. For an individual who has returned or reassumed his Philippine citizenship under Republic Act No. 9225, otherwise known as the "Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003", he shall submit the Identification Certificate issued by the Bureau of Immigration, to prove his reacquisition of Philippine citizenship, and his income tax return filed in the foreign country, in order that he is earning income in such foreign country.

c. For the legitimate spouse of the individual referred to in (i) and (ii), the marriage certificate shall be submitted in addition to the documents mentioned in (i) and (ii).

d. For any child of the individual mentioned in letter (c) and (ii), the birth certificate of the child shall be submitted in addition to the documents mentioned in (i) and (ii).

PERA Rule 6 - Employer's Contribution.

A private employer may contribute to his employee's PERA in the extent of the maximum amount allowable to the Contributor. Provided, however, that the employer complies with the mandatory Social Security System (SSS) contribution and retirement pay under the Labor Code of the Philippines. Such contribution shall be allowed as a deduction from the employer's gross income. The Contributor, however, retains the prerogative to make investment decisions pertaining to his PERA.

PERA Rule 7- Separate Asset.

The PERA shall be kept separate from the other assets of the Administrator/Custodian and shall not be part of the general assets of the Administrator/Custodian for purposes of insolvency.

PERA Rule 10 – Tax Treatment of Contributions.

The Contributor shall be given an income tax credit equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total PERA contributions. Provided, however, that in no instance can there be any refund of the said tax credit arising from the PERA contributions. If the Contributor is an overseas Filipino, he shall be entitled to claim tax credit from any tax payable or the National Government under the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

PERA Rule 11 – Tax Treatment of Investment Income.

All income earned from the investments and reinvestments of the maximum amount allowed herein are tax-exempt.

PERA Rule 12 – Tax Treatment of Distributions.

All distributions in accordance with PERA Rule 14 hereof are tax-exempt.

PERA Rule 13. Premature Termination.

a. Any termination not falling under PERA Rule 14 on tax-free distributions shall constitute premature termination of a PERA and shall be treated as an early withdrawal under PERA Rule 15 hereof. Provided, That this penalty on withdrawal shall not apply if the PERA Assets are transferred to another PERA investment and/or another Administrator within the mandatory periods herein.

b. Premature termination shall not occur in the event that the Contributor, upon giving the instruction to terminate the PERA or to withdraw the PERA investment Products, directs the Administrator to transfer the entire proceeds therefrom to other PERA investment Products and/or to another Administrator.

PERA Rule 14. Tax-Free Distributions Upon Retirement/Death.

a. Upon attaining the age of fifty-five (55) years and subject to the requirement that the Contributor has made contributions for at least five (5) years, the Contributor may elect to terminate the PERA and withdraw the PERA assets therefrom.

The Contributor shall inform the Administrator whether he elects to receive the proceeds of his PERA in either lump sum or pension for a definite period or lifetime pension.

Notwithstanding the presence of the conditions for tax-free distributions, the Contributor may opt to continue his PERA and enjoy the corresponding tax privileges.

b. Upon the death of the Contributor, the Administrator shall terminate the PERA and release the PERA Assets to the designated beneficiaries. However, should there be no designated beneficiaries, the PERA Assets shall be paid to the estate of the deceased Contributor in accordance with the laws on succession and Rules of Court. The proceeds of the PERA distribution shall not form part of the estate subject to estate tax.

PERA Rule 15 – Penalty on Early Withdrawal.

a. any premature termination under PERA Rule 13 shall constitute an early withdrawal subject to penalties.

The Administrator shall forthwith:

i. Compute and withhold from the proceeds due to the Contributor the early withdrawal penalty in an amount equivalent to the tax incentives enjoyed by the Contributor during the entire period of the PERA;

ii. Notify the BIR of the early withdrawal of the PERA and remit the early withdrawal penalties withheld from the Contributor.

b. No early withdrawal penalty shall be imposed on any withdrawal of funds upon presentation of the following documents evidencing the purposes stated under Section 13 of the PERA Act of 2008:

i. A licensed doctor's certificate attesting to an accident or illness-related hospitalization in excess of thirty (30) days; or

ii. Certification from the pertinent government agency that the Contributor has been subsequently rendered permanently totally disabled as defined under the Employees Compensation Law, Social Security Law or Government Service Insurance System Law.

C. The distribution of the funds for which the Contributor did not enjoy any tax incentive shall not be subject to any early withdrawal penalty.

PERA Rule 16 – Non-Assignability.

No portion of the PERA Assets may be assigned, alienated, pledged, encumbered, attached, garnished, seized or levied upon. The prohibition against involuntary attachment, garnishment, seizure or levy shall continue to apply to PERA Assets which have been distributed in accordance with Section 13 of the PERA Act of 2008 and PERA Rule 14. PERA Assets shall not be considered assets of the Contributor for purposes of insolvency and estate taxes.

PERA Rule 17 – Administration of Tax Incentives.

The BIR shall issue the implementing revenue rules and regulations regarding all aspects of tax administration relating to PERA.

PERA Rule 18 – Penalty.

A fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) nor more than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day, or to not more than twelve (12) years or both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed upon any person, association, partnership or corporation, its officer, employee or agent who, acting alone or in connivance with others, shall:

a. Act as Administrator, Custodian or Investment Manager without being properly qualified or without being granted prior accreditation by the concerned Regulatory Authority;

b. Invest the contribution without written or electronically authenticated authority from the Contributor, or invest the contribution in contravention of the instructions of the Contributor;

c. Knowingly and willfully make any statement in any application, report, or document required to be filed under this Act, which statement is false or misleading with respect to any material fact;

d. Misappropriate or convert to the properties of the Contributor, contributions to and investments or income from the PERA;

e. By prior negligence, cause any loss, conversion, or misappropriation of the contributions to, or investments from the PERA; or

f. Violate any provision of this Act or rules and regulations issued pursuant to this Act.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any willful violation by the accredited Administrator, Custodian or Investment Manager of any of the provisions of this Act, the PERA Rules, relevant rules and regulations issued by the concerned Regulatory Authorities or other terms and conditions of the authority to act as Administrator, Custodian or Investment Manager may be subject to the administrative sanctions provided for in applicable laws.

This above penalties shall be without prejudice to imposition civil and criminal liability provided for under applicable laws for the same act or omission.

PERA Rule 19 – Issues of the Tax Exemption and Privileges.

Any person, natural or juridical, who unduly avails of the tax exemption privileges herein granted shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 11 of the PERA Act of 2008. In addition, the offender shall refund to the government double the amount of the tax exemptions and privileges enjoyed under the PERA Act of 2008, plus interest of twenty percent (20%) per year from the date of enjoyment of the tax exemptions and privileges to the date of actual payment.

PERA RULE 20 – Separability Clause.

If any provision or part of these PERA Rules is held invalid, the other provisions of these PERA Rules not otherwise affected and the application of such provision or rule shall remain valid and subsisting.

PERA Rule 21 – Effectivity.

These rules shall take effect immediately upon its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED ON 21 OCTOBER 2008 BY:

BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS By:
(Sgd.) AMANDO M. TETANGCO, JR.
Governor

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION By:
(Sgd.) FE B. BARIN
Chairman

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE By:
(Sgd.) MARGARITA B. FELIX, JR.
Undersecretary

OFFICE OF THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER By:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. MALINIS
Commissioner

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE By:
(Sgd.) NELSON M. ASPE
Deputy Commissioner

SMB lists bonds on PDEx

By Doris C. Dumlao

SAN MIGUEL SAN MIGUEL BREWERY Inc. yesterday listed its P30.0 billion inaugural retail bonds—the largest corporate bond issue in the country—on fixed income exchange Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp. (PDEx).

The listing will allow the investing public to trade the SMB bonds at the secondary market.

"We applaud San Miguel as it joins the pioneers in our nascent investing, who have taken the risk/dare to bring the benefits of an organized market to our community," said Vicente Castillo, president of PDEx parent Philippine Dealing System Holdings (PDS group).

"We commend the unprecedented completion of the primary market in this record issue. We believe this listing demonstrates that our local issuers are becoming more astute in the secondary market infrastructure for their debt securities," Castillo said.

The SMB listing will bring the collective corporate debt registers listed on PDEx to P97.3 billion.

"We are hopeful that we can continue to become more relevant to investors and look forward to their gaining confidence in the secondary market infrastructure. We are pleased to see our issues give genius manner at a steady pace and look forward to playing our role in spurring further growth," Castillo said.

The SMB fixed rate bonds were issued in three series in April, maturing in 2012, 2014 and 2019, respectively.

Market makers for the bonds are HSBC and Bank of Commerce.

SECURITIES and Exchange Commission Chair Fe Barin and SMB president Ramon S. Ang and head the ringing of the ceremonial bell at the PDEx. Looking on are (from left) SMC treasury head Margie Dalisay, SMB chief finance officer Wee Ancajas, SEC Commissioner Jaime Cadiz, PDS Group CEO and president Vicente Castillo, PDEx president Cesar R. Orbeta, and SMB executive vice president Ramon Haresco.

Trans-Asia posts 134% profit growth

By Amy R. Borra

TRANS-ASIA OIL AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT Corp. said its consolidated net income surged by 134 percent to P215 million in the first nine months, on the back of the strong performance of its power business.

In the third quarter, Trans-Asia swung back to profitability to record a P57 million consolidated net income, from a net loss of P78.07 million in the same quarter last year, the firm said in a regulatory filing.

"Despite being a relatively small player in the power generation arena, we have been able to complement and enhance our earnings from our generation activities by investing ourselves in the supply business," said Trans-Asia president and CEO Francisco Viray.

Consolidated revenue in the first three quarters dipped to P1.1 billion in the nine months from P1.3 billion last year. This can be attributed to the decline in power generation revenue.

However, Trans-Asia's electricity trading revenue more than doubled to P417.8 million in the first nine months, from P200.4 million last year, due to higher energy sales and power rate.

Century Peak seen buying 60% of MTMC

CENTURY PEAK METALS Holdings Corp. entered into a memorandum of understanding with Mineral Resources Mining Corp. (MRMC) for the conduct of due diligence in preparation for CPMETC's acquisition of a majority of the latter's coal holdings.

The due diligence will cover the valuation of the MTMC stock to determine the structure and terms of the proposed acquisition.

CPMETC is expected to acquire up to 60 percent of MTMC.

CPMETC, which recently listed by way of introduction on the Philippine Stock Exchange, is the holding firm of Century Peak Corp. (CPC), the nickel mining company in Surigao del Norte in March 2008, and Century Iron Ensing Smelting Inc., where it has a 55-percent stake. The MTMC acquisition is part of CPC's strategy to go into joint ventures or operating agreements.

MTMC has five mineral properties with an estimated total area of 4,886 hectares covered by four Mineral Production Sharing Agreements and one Exploration Permit over chromite mines in Zambales.

PSBank sees faster lending growth

By Michelle V. Ramos

PSBANK AUT DIES ALIESSE PUETES double-digit growth in lending in the last nine months of the year, PSBank said it was expecting to outstanding loans to rise at a faster clip in 2010.

"Given [global economy] move out of the problems of 2008, we expect lending to be better. That [projection] already takes into account the fact that we are doing product enhancements," Rolando Medigaran, PSBank executive vice president, said in a briefing yesterday.

Rodriguez said the bank was set to launch today its "Prime Rebate Program," which he said would give rebates to loan customers who either pay their loan amortization ahead of due dates or in excess of their monthly dues.

The bank executive said it was the first program of its kind in the country's banking industry. Normally borrowers who prepay their monthly amortizations or pay in excess of their monthly installments do not get incentives for doing so. PSBank thought it was about time credit-worthy bank customers be rewarded.

He said the program came about following consumer request from customers for an incentive for prepaying bank loans.

"We want our customers to benefit from any excess or advance payments that they make on their loans. This gives them flexibility and ease of paying their loans in a shorter period of time or at a discounted rate over time," Rodriguez said.

He said the formula for computing the rebates varies across loan types—housing, car loan, personal loans—and the amounts of loan.

As of end-September, the net outstanding loans of PSBank amounted to P47.23 billion, up 18 percent year-on-year. The growth in loans extended by PSBank was faster than the industry average of only about 6 percent.

PSBank said it remained aggressive in lending despite moves of the others to be a little cautious amid the global recession crunch.

Biz Buzz

From page B1

puzzled when they take a close look at the cabinet officials' background and present portfolio, which calls for him to champion free-market policies.

"Your [Energy Secretary] Angie Reyes," said one oil company official. "That makes me—Cabinet officials even seeking to be popular in his opinion."

—Dandee L. Lucas

X-rays, businessmen be charged

A CIVIL society organization formed by private citizens is now aggressively engaging volunteer groups to support Noynoy and Mar in the 2010 elections, according to one source familiar with the group.

Calling itself the Mahusay Pilipino Movement, these X-men (as in cabinet members, NOT members of the third sex) were formerly with the Cory, Erap and GMA administrations, the three Cory, Erap and Arroyo cabinets, like Bobbit de Guzman and Cesar Sarino.

Also said to be part of the group are businessmen Salvador B. Zamora II, Ely Magsaysay Padilla, lawyers Ely Pamatmat, and some other personalities who have been "hiding" in some out in support of the group.

The movement is also trying to recruit members who are looking for a group rabid/ultra-pro pinoy-feely-patriotic votes, as well as help out in the Noynoy campaign financially.

Expect the camps of other "presidentiables" to follow suit, soon. —Dandee L. Lucas

Ortigas allots P100B for 10-yr dev't plan

From page B1

Ortigas Family sees it is vested by the provincial government.

"We will start development of this property called Capitol Commons, by next year," Bribet said, explaining that it would be a mixed-use project with high-rise buildings and AC percent of the property devoted to open spaces. "That will also be worth around P25 billion over a 10-year period."

"We intend to become the 'ayala of the north,'" he added, alluding to the property developer's commitment to quality and "green spaces" in its projects.

He also said that Ortigas & Co. would also start next year the redevelopment of the 16-hectare Greenhills Commercial Center to transform it into a modern shopping complex.

Once completed, the P35-billion shopping complex will hold several mid- and high-rise structures, a larger "hanger" area as well as three levels of underground parking facility for that can accommodate up to 10,000 vehicles.

Finally, Bribet said the company would also develop a 1.6-hectare property in front of the Asian Development Bank compound in Ortigas Center, which is also the Manila operations together with Multinational Investment Bancorporation.

The P35.8 billion raised from the offering was used by SMS to pay parent San Miguel Corp. for the purchase of the beer brands and intellectual property rights to the latters business.

BUSINESS

Red Dragon Farm wins IBM Business Challenge

RED DRAGON FARM RECENTLY won the Philippine edition of IBM's Business Reality Challenge.

The Asean-wide contest aims to assist small and medium-sized businesses wanting to improve productivity while reducing operation costs through the efficient use of information technology.

RDF is a homegrown medium-scale company engaged in commercial livestock production that operates a feed mill, 12 poultry farms, two native farms and 16 meat shops in Central Luzon.

As part of its prize, IBM will provide the livestock company a suite of free hardware, software and consulting services worth P30,000 for 24 organizations.

"RDF is currently challenged in creating a system that will incorporate financial, administrative, people and overall operations. We need a system that will integrate all of them for us to be more competitive and then, more productive and make our customers satisfied. IBM is the realization of this goal," said RDF president and general manager Robert Lo.

"The system will allow the company to attain 15 percent to 20 percent savings in operational costs," he said.

Natalie Pia Antonio, IBM Philippines country manager for firm core, said small- and medium-sized businesses should look for ways to make their business smarter, and that IBM sees continued to help them realize these goals.

Use of ODA funds sharply higher, says Neda

DISBURSEMENTS OF OFFICIAL development assistance (ODA) funds reached $893.61 million in the nine months to September, up 61 percent from the $0.9167 million in the year-ago period, as of end of the National Economic and Development Authority said.

Frederick M. Plaza, director of Neda's project monitoring staff, said the increase was mainly due to the single-tranche release of two program loans from the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

These are the ADB-funded, $150-million program dubbed Governance in Justice Sector Reform Program, Subprogram II, and the WB-funded, $200-million Global Food Crisis Response Program Development Policy Operations.

As of end-September, the ADB released a total of $172.20 million in ODA funds for the Philippines while the WB released a total of $304.61 million.

Even then, the biggest source of ODA funds is funds available during the nine-month period was the Japan International Cooperation Agency with $356.05 million.

The remainder, totaling about $121.86 million, came through the governments like those of Austria, China, Finland, France, Germany, South Korea, The Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

These other sources of ODA also include the United Nations' International Fund for Agricultural Development, Finland-based Nordic Development Fund, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and Swedish International Development Agency.

"The disbursement rate also increased to 79 percent from the 70-percent disbursement rate registered in the same period last year," Plaza said.

He was referring to the actual disbursements as a percentage of target disbursements for the period as a report.

As of September, ODA funds from the ADB were disbursed at a rate of 97.65 percent while disbursements from the WB and JICA stood at 80.79 percent and 80.32 percent, respectively.

The highest rate of disbursement of 93.49 percent was registered by ODA loans funded by others sources, Plaza added. Ronnel W. Domingo

Gov't junks treasury bond bids

Investors 'fence-sitting' ahead of fiscal data

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT AGAIN REJECTED offers under Treasury bonds auctions rendered too little while asking for rates that were too high.

The Bureau of the Treasury yesterday allowed P6.3 billion worth of seven-year Fixed, for which potential buyers bid a total of P5.68 billion.

This is the second time in two months that the BTr rejected bids for Fixed.

"The bids were quite on the high side and the offer was underwhelming," National Treasurer Roberto B. Tan said.

Had the BTr accepted all tenders, the yield on the debt paper would have gone up by 50.7 basis points to 7.33% percent from the previously-fixed basis points.

"Today's bond on offer was supposed to be a reissue of a 10-year T bond originally released in November 2006.

Such then, the P6-billion offer was oversubscribed by more than twice to P12.35 billion, and the BTr gave a full award at a coupon rate of 5.25 percent.

Asked why the market seemed uninterested in medium-term securities, Tan said investors were probably waiting for the government's report on its fiscal position scheduled today.

"Most of them are fence-sitting (at the moment)," Tan said.

In this light, he said the BTr was considering to lengthen the tenor of the subsidized P6.3-billion offer for 10-year Fixed to Dec. 1, but he clarified that there was no firm decision yet.

He explained that buyers like insurance firms and pension funds preferred long-term debt papers.

In the previous auction for T-bonds, the BTr awarded P6.5 billion in a bulk issue of 20-year T-bonds at a coupon rate of 9.25 percent.

Before that, the BTr had rejected all tenders for P6.3 billion worth of 10-year bonds that was undersubscribed as P5.7 billion.

In a related development, Tan said the Philippines' return to the Japanese bond market was "unlikely" to push through this year in the aftermath for the remaining few weeks was already too tight.

The Department of Finance is engaged in continuing talks with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation in relation to the possible floation of at least $1 billion worth of the so-called Samurai bonds.

The DOF is trying to get the JBIC to agree on lower guarantee fees for the planned issue.

Rapid rise in Asian energy needs seen

By Amy R. Remo

THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION must invest between $7 trillion and $9.7 trillion in the energy sector from 2005 to 2030 to meet the rapidly growing demand in the region, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said.

In its Energy Outlook for Asia and the Pacific report, ADB projected regional energy demand to grow 2.6 percent every year between 2005 and 2030, outpacing the world average of 1.9 percent.

"Nearly 86 percent of the region's energy needs in 2030 would have to be met by fossil fuels—coal, oil and natural gas—and this will drive the growth in carbon dioxide emissions. The import of oil are projected to increase substantially, nearly doubling the 2005 level by 2030," the report warned.

According to the report, the Philippines' total energy demand, for instance, is expected to surge by 95 percent to 79.6 million tons of oil equivalent (mtoe) from only 41.6 mtoe in 2006. The country's average annual growth rate was estimated at 2.4 percent between 2005 and 2030.

Natural gas and coal are seen to be the country's biggest sources for power generation over the next 20 years. Power generation using coal is expected to grow by 6.1 percent from 2005 to 2030, while its natural gas reserves, which are estimated to generate 68.9 TWh.

The report was jointly published by ADB and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, and was launched recently together with another report, the Energy Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (1990-2006). These two studies were undertaken by the Asia Pacific Energy Research Center of The Institute of Energy Economics of Japan.

During the recent launch of these reports, ADB vice president Lawrence Greenwood called on all stakeholders to seek a less carbon path to meet growing energy demand in a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable way.

"Cooperation among the economies is needed to enhance energy security and sustainable development in the region. This can be done through sharing policy information, facilitating energy trade and conducting joint energy projects," Greenwood said.

The energy outlook report pointed out that access to modern forms of energy is a necessary condition for economic development and a high standard of living in the Asia Pacific region. In 2005, about 950 million people in the Asia-Pacific region still did not have access to electricity.

MOTORING

Editor Joey R. Arcano

Hairloss Stops At Svenson

call 892-HAIR (4247)

SOLD!

Despite setbacks natural and man-made, the sound of 'ka-ching!' is still in the air

By Tessa R. Salazar

WITH LESS THAN two months before 2009 officially bids adieu, carmakers—their bodies hotwired (a la Pacquiao) by a turbulent year—are still laughing all the way to the bank. Why wouldn't they, when despite the troubles, the cash registers just keep ringing. Higher sales in September and October have brought overall year-to-date sales up by 1.3 percent compared to the same 10-month period last year, according to the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc.

Overall, the top-five selling automakers have been, in descending order: Toyota, Mitsubishi, Honda, Hyundai, and Isuzu.

The best-selling brands so far have been Vios in descending order) the Toyota Vios (9,601 units sold), Honda City and Civic, Toyota Altis, and Honda Jazz for the sedans, Mitsubishi Montero, Toyota Fortuner, Hyundai Tucson, Honda CR-V, and Ford Everest in the SUV category. The Toyota Innova (9,890 units) and Avanza (4,426 units), Mitsubishi Adventure, Isuzu Crosswind and the Mitsubishi L300FB are tops in the multipurpose and utility vehicles category, while the Toyota Hilux, Nissan Navara, Mitsubishi Strada, Isuzu D-Max, and Ford Ranger lead the pick-up category for the full-sized sedans, Toyota Camry and Honda Accord lord it over. For vans, the Hyundai Starex, Toyota Hi-Ace, and Nissan Urvan dominate.

Canapi president Herk Lee re-named the Chamber to optimistic that it would hit its minimum target of 120,000 units sold for the year, pushed on to that target in great part by automakers aggressively offering a wider product line coupled with low-cost financing packages, sensitive pricing and clever activities to help buyers acquire new vehicles.

Supertorms, super sales

When superstorms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" dowsed and billions of pesos worth of property, including thousands of motor vehicles, was there a spike in demand for new vehicles to replace the damaged/flooded ones?

Perlita Dytiangsan, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation's assistant vice president for marketing services, said that, though it has been indeed unfortunate that the recent typhoons have caused massive losses, they have also created a "window of opportunity" for sales of insured new vehicles.

"The (sales) increase may be influenced by flood affected individuals who have considered to just purchase a brand new vehicle instead of having their units repaired. The rationale behind this may be psychological, as not to remind them of the ordeal they have gone through after the typhoons," explained Dytiangsan.

The conditional sales leader, Toyota, woke up to a big surprise at the end of October when the month's sales figure showed Mitsubishi getting 17.7 percent of the market share, the fastest 24.3 percent.

Meanwhile, Toyota is still 9,000 units short of its 2009 sales target.

But there is a bright side to this, according to Raymond Rodriguez, first vice president for Toyota vehicle sales. "We've reached our highest monthly sales level in two years, and highest sales of an October with 9,300 units and 22 percent growth. We have raved quite good, compared to our neighbors. Coming from the projected slowdown, such market level gives us optimism that we can achieve the same sales level as last year, and if this positive trend continues, we can even surpass last year's sales, and see 2010 as a growth year."

Sliding down to the number 3 spot has been Honda at 12.7 percent market share-overall.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc., however, takes such numbers with a grain of salt. "Honestly, our sales ranking doesn't concern us as much as our customer satisfaction standing does," said Melanie Gonzales, HCPI's vehicle sales and corporate communications department head.

She also reasoned that Canapi's total sales ranking lumps both passenger car and commercial vehicles sales into one. "With the commercial vehicle segment covering 65 percent of the industry and with only our CRV hatching it out with other SUVs, alongside pick-ups and sometimes MUVs, a limited market share for Honda is thus inevitable even if we dominate the PC segment," said Gonzales.

Excellent resale value

Gonzales also highlighted Honda cars' high quality and "excellent resale value," as well as the only Euro 4 car lineup in the market.

The CR-V remains in the top five of the 40 SUV models in the market.

Mitsubishi is riding on the strong sales of its core models the Montero Sport SUV (selling around 700/month since its September 2008 launch), the Adventure (400/month) and L300 (300/month) AUVs and Strada (200/month) pick-ups. Honda, on the other hand, got a sales boost with the wide acceptance of the redesigned City. With 4,6-digit sales of the model, at 7,300 units (for an 85-percent growth) have already surpassed 2008 sales.

Mitsubishi last held the overall sales lead for the year in 1998, while Toyota Motor Philippines has stayed on top of the sales game for 15 of the 21 years it has existed since 1988. Budgeted credits the carmaker's consistent success to the brand's reputation as "a good investment" and "value-for-money" for its affordability, fuel efficiency, availability of parts, low-cost of maintenance, as well as a relatively good resale value.

As of end-October, MMPC had already surpassed last year's sales volume with 19,805 units for a 29-percent growth and a market share of 13.7 percent—good enough for the No. 2 spot overall.

"The Montero Sport continues to draw interest not only in the SUV segment but other vehicle segments, because of its best value for money proposition," Dytiangsan notes.

The Canapi sales report showed that Montero Sport accounting for 6,564 units sold, versus rival Toyota Fortuner's 4,426 units.

Weaknesses addressed

"As a leading company, Toyota's weakness is that we have around 600,000 customers and over 30 years of being in this business. It is our goal to please each one of our customers, which gets more challenging with every vehicle we sell," said Bridgestar.

Dytiangsan, for his part, said: "As we are strong in the commercial vehicle line up, our weakness is in the passenger unit segment as we are not able to compete in the micro and small sedan segments. However, Mitsubishi is now developing a small car which will be introduced in the near future."

Honda admitted that there has always been the perception that its cars aren't very expensive to maintain when in fact, it is actually more affordable compared with other makes," Gonzales reiterated.

"Our service division recommends periodic maintenance check up every 10,000 kms compared to others that require PMS every 5,000km, clearly there is savings on maintenance cost. This does not include the fuel and the time saved given the additional trips a customer has to do when he or she brings her car for servicing," said Gonzales.

Honda does not consider the old City a weakness. "It played a very important role in expanding our passenger car sales. The previous City served its purpose very well which was to make Honda more affordable to more customers."

Who's up, who's down

Overall Market Share

	Company	2008 Sales	Market Share 2008	Sales as of October	Market Share
	Toyota	44,810	30.8	38,585	34.5
	Mitsubishi	11,220	14.1	10,830	13.1
	Honda	11,200	13.8	11,630	13.1
	Hyundai	10,283	9.2	8,980	8.1
	Isuzu	10,181	8.1	7,980	8.2
	Ford	7,147	6.2	6,280	6.8
	Nissan	5,100	6.2	6,080	5.1
	Kia	4,850	3.5	3,050	2.8
	Suzuki	3,487	1.8	3,078	2.8

TWO MONTHS INTO THE COMpletion of the year, car sales are slightly up at 1.3 per cent based on figures from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Camp).

Toyota has kept its traditional foothold of the market leadership but the October data shows it lost almost three percentage points as Mitsubishi with the former at 34.5 and the latter 37.7. Honda is running third at 13.7. While both Mitsubishi, riding on the strong sales of its Montero, Adventure and Strada, and Honda which got a tremendous boost from the performance of its City have already exceeded their 2008 sales as of October.

Interestingly, the 10-Lot outfit Isuzu by 95 units last month to close the gap by just 1.7 per cent in the Utility Van race. Here are the top performers based on the latest results provided by members of Camp.

Top 5 Small Passenger Cars

Company	Dealer 2009 Sales	Market Share	Total 2009 Sales	Market Share
Vios	3,106	33.6	8,685	31.1
City	121	11.8	2,305	20.6
Civic	381	8.8	2,237	6.8
Mio	178	5.4	1,751	5.1
Jazz	140	3.1	1,250	4.0

Innovation is our passion.

Customer satisfaction is our commitment.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines tops JD Power CSI and SSI studies!

Customer satisfaction is (and always will be) a standard objective for Mitsubishi Motors Philippines. Our team consistently offers premium service quality and gives delivers satisfaction to customers. And now, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines receives top honors in both the CSI & SSI Studies of J.D. Power & Associates. This dedication and the 100% our team members put in everything we do has borne fruit.

This is an honor we wholeheartedly share with our business partners, colleagues and most importantly our customers. We shall look to the future, with its new challenges, delivering only the best quality service you've grown to expect and deserve from a company of winners.

J.D. Power & Associates, a global marketing information company that serves customer satisfaction, product quality and consumer behavior, awarded Mitsubishi Motors Philippines the CSI (Customer Satisfaction Index) and the SSI (Sales Satisfaction Index) awards for 2009.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines received the highest customer scores in its segment in J.D. Power Asia Pacific 2009 Philippines Sales Satisfaction Index (SSI) Study™. It received the highest in the J.D. Power Asia Pacific 2009 Philippines Customer Service Index (CSI) Study™. Go to www.jdpower.com for more information about these studies, including ratings and rankings. Your experiences may vary. Visit www.jdpower.com/corporate/

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation

MITSUBISHI MOTORS Drive your ambition

www.mitsubishi-motors.com.ph

Top 5 Sports Utility Vehicles

Montero	196	29.0	6,484	30.3
Fortuner	179	11.6	4,490	20.9
Pajero	117	9.4	1,381	6.2
CRV	110	1.8	1,803	8.4
Everest	351	8.3	1,716	7.9

Medium Passenger Cars

Corolla	97	10.7	596	46.9
Accord	33	10.1	386	30.1

Top 5 Multi-Purpose Vehicles

Innova	1,099	34.0	8,000	33.1
Avanza	405	34.0	4,600	31.7
Adventure	284	16.4	4,250	21.2
Grandvoyager	449	14.8	5,216	44.7
L300 FB	303	8.6	2,240	8.8

Top 5 Pick Up Models

Hi-Lux	411	24.8	2,389	32.1
Navara	333	18.7	2,139	21.4
Strada	384	21	2,060	20.4
Dmax	306	16.1	1,351	18.3
Triton	119	6.4	911	8.6

Top 5 Utility Vans

Starex	253	55.6	2,351	57.5
H-100	250	28.6	2,446	35.8
Urvan	148	28.6	1,500	24.6
L300 FB	51	2.3	844	8.7
Forza	16	3.1	19	1.9

Top 5 Luxury Brands

BMW	91	44.1	467	44.7
Volvo	35	17.0	219	21
Audi	6	4.3	146	14
Lexus	11	11	130	13
Porsche	11	4.3	77	7.4

THE CX7's 5-speed automatic transmission assures the driver of sporty handling and a superb driving performance.

Two new sports crossovers

MAZDA PHILIPPINES UNVEILED NOT one but a pair of globally acclaimed sport crossovers recently.

The CX-7 and CX-9 sport crossover SUVs blend the athletic sportiness of a sports car with those of sports utility vehicles.

Steven Tan, Mazda Philippines vice president for marketing and sales, described the duo to the motoring press during the May 12 launch in Makati City as having "advanced emotional styling, commanding features and exceptional handling."

The breath-taking unveiling of the CX-9 and the 2010 CX-9 is intended to inject a fresh dose of product innovation and styling into the car market.

Mazda Philippines further revealed that it wishes to provide customers premium crossover SUVs with sports car handling and performance that rivalsmen Mazda's Zoom-Zoom brand DNA.

The CX-7 is equipped with a MZR 2.3-liter engine that packs a maximum torque of 205 Nm per 5,000rpm and a maximum output of 182ps [161hp] per 6,000rpm. Its engine is paired with a five-speed automatic transmission with a wide gear range that allows plenty of torque even at low revs, assuring the drivers of sporty handling and a superb driving performance.

The 2010 CX-9 is powered by a 3.7-liter V6 engine. It has a power peak of 273ps [273hp] at 6,250rpm. Its spec sheets revealed that the torque curve rises through from 3,000 to 5,000rpm, peaking at 367Nm at 4,350rpm.

The CX-9 includes an Aisin-supplied six-speed Sport AT automatic transmission with manual mode as standard equipment. Broad ratios maximize flexibility by providing enthusiastic launch acceleration with quiet cruising.

It has active torque split all-wheel drive, which rapidly adjusts to changing traction needs by monitoring wheel slippage, steering angle, gear ratio, lateral acceleration and available driveline torque.

CX-7's drivetrain

The CX-7's drivetrain mated with an engine speed sensing variable assist rack and pinion steering system results in curve-hugging grip on virtually any road. Finally, an all-independent suspension—MacPherson struts at the front and multilink at the rear with available bars—integrated to an ultra-rigid body makes every ride comfortable.

The CX-7 is equipped with dual front, side, and curtain airbags. It has anti-lock braking system with electronic brakeforce distribution, dynamic control stability, traction control system, remote keyless entry, and a burglar alarm system. Its TCS automatically reduces driveline torque to help reduce traction.

Its sleek exterior is embellished with a larger five-point grille highlighting the new Mazda family face. It has a redesign grille with black mesh fixings, a roof spoiler, doors with new lamp indicators and a rear liftgate garnish stylishly designed to enhance sophistication.

The dynamic styling flows all through out the vehicle while the tapered side windows and its 17" aluminum alloy wheels give heightened experience to the CX-7's exhilarating performance.

It offers the convenient mobile entertainment systems with 406-TSF Radio and CD player. You can also hook up your music player and listen in the latest hits through its exterior auxiliary input jack while enjoying your ride.

CX-9's interior space

The CX-9 rides on a 2,857mm wheelbase, one of the longest in the segment, providing easy access to its three rear seating. There's ample room for adults and sufficient cargo space to accommodate modern families. Under the sleek exterior is an interior that will impress demanding customers with its space, utility, versatility, and premium features.

To ensure accommodations for all drivers, the driver's seat and steering column move quickly and easily over a long range of adjustments.

The 60-40 split second row carries three in comfort and offers 127mm of fore and aft slide travel and a reclining backrest. In the 50-50 split third row, the seating position and legroom are among the highest in the class to maximize head room.

Entry to the third row is easy, with nearly 600mm of access space between the folded second row seat and the C-pillar. Even with the third row occupied, the CX-9 provides 487.4L of cargo space.

TWOSEA

'Auto fashionistas'...

From page B2-4

to think twice before they purchase a new vehicle," she said.

Relatively pricey

But procuring your ride came with a price, she admitted.

For budgets, the going rate is P321,000 for the most basic, with the price climbing to as high as P599,000. Price and bodystock range from P320,000 to as much as P720,000, while wheels and tires will set you back between P15,000 and P200,000.

Those who want to dress up the inner workings of their vehicles have to prepare to shell out around P50,000-P70,000 on the average, although a P1,000 budget will suffice for very minor tweaking. Those who really want to boost their cars' performance will have to spend P500,000 to as high as P1 million—on performance enhancement alone.

The more tech-savvy auto fashionistas spend an average of P60,000 on mobile electronics, but P35,000 should be enough to buy some basic gadgets. Those with money to burn, however, are prepared to shell out between P150,000 and more than P1 million to bring their vehicles up to at least James Bond level—at least in the in-car entertainment department.

Japanese cars—particularly Honda's Civic and Jazz and Nissan's Skyline, GTR and Silvia—are among the auto fashionistas' favorite models to part way their hard-earned cash.

For car enthusiasts who want to save a few bucks, or even make some cash, she suggested checking out www.sa-par.com, the largest auto parts website in the world.

She related that the site helped "sino-sino" sell used parts online.

The site offers as many as 120 million used parts from more than 3,300 auto recyclers worldwide, attracting around 400,000 visitors and getting 150,000 searches each month.

The site would be introduced to the Philippine market at the Manila Auto Salon 2009, which would take place on Nov. 20-29 at the SMX Convention Center.

Growth potential

Although not really targeted at mainstream economics, Dilon Jamin said the "auto fashionista" niche market presented large revenue opportunities for those in the automotive aftermarket businesses.

"Within the Southeast Asian region, the Philippines' automotive aftermarket industry has a very big growth potential since the Philippines, together with Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, are considered Asean's four major markets for vehicle sales. We all know that demand for automotive parts and aftermarket products grows as vehicle sales grow," she said.

"We can see [analysts that rate Ayala Land Inc. as] the best in the Philippines does not have enough data available as far as automotive aftermarket sales and demand is concerned. My opinion is based on the exhibitor and visitor surveys as well as business generated on the show floor in the automotive aftermarket shows my company has been organizing since 2002. Participation of aftermarket companies and visitor attendance to these shows have obtained a steady growth over the past 17 years," she added.

She related that according to the 2007 automotive recycling report conducted by the Ibaraki Institute of Japan, the average life of vehicles in the Philippines was 13 years.

"This explains the continued desire of the Filipino car owner to repair and use his vehicle. This car mindset is a constant demand for automotive aftermarket accessories such as replacement parts and maintenance products," she said.

As demand for vehicle maintenance and self-expression increases, she said the chance for the team fashionista likewise grows up.

"With the continued interest in car customization coupled with the influx of new aftermarket options by brand of vehicle, the more varied the customization styles there will be for the car owner and the future car owners. This creates a niche market I simply call the 'auto fashionistas' – car enthusiasts who buy cars based on lifestyle needs," she said.

0% INTEREST or
ALL-IN LOW DOWNPAYMENT

The New Ford Everest
Make your own way

EARLY CHRISTMAS DEAL OPTIONS	EVEREST 2.5L 4x2 M/T
Option 1 0% INTEREST	18mos. 40% DP
Option 2 All-In Low DP PMT - Insurance - Registration - Chattel Mortgage	199K ALL-IN

Styling. Power. Safety - the New Ford Everest - inspiring confidence for you to make your own way.

Integrated Connectivity with Voice Command (ECO) System (DVD & Bluetooth) w/ optional Satellite Navigation (Nav'g)

Front and rear privacy tint of 4mm and 5mm percentage

16" Alloy wheels

6-speed automatic Transmission with Electronic Shift w/shift-fly

Ford

Make Every Day Exciting

ford.com.ph

Subaru's hotrod Legacy

MOTOR EXECUTIVE ADRIAN Dizon Cuneo and Inquirer columnist Ricky Lo have been in the habit of driving cars—fast and adrenaline fast, respectively—for a long time. The 2014 Subaru Legacy 2.5 GT recently launched in Manila, has all these hallmarks of a sure demon makers refer except for one necessary difference: it is extraordinarily fast... capable of hitting 100 kph from standstill in an adrenaline-pumping 8.9 seconds.

The turbocharged panache isn't the only edge that the new 2.5 GT Legacy has over its before rivals. Being a Subaru, the drivetrain consists of a low-mounted, horizontally-opposed boxer engine and Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive (AWD) system to deliver exceptional traction, balanced handling. Razor cornering and smoother performance.

The boxer engine and Symmetrical AWD, Subaru's core technologies, work in harmony to counter the offensive distribution of power among all four wheels, more precise responsiveness, unrelenting grip and greater driver control whatever the road and weather conditions. The low-profile (the horizontally-opposed boxer engine known as the Legacy's center of gravity which, together with the perfectly-counterpoised opposing movements of the pistons, translates into strong thrust acceleration and sporty handling.

The new Legacy's 2.5-liter twin-cam turbo Subaru boxer engine is an improved version of the pre-update that won the 'DI International Engine of the Year Award' twice (2006 and 2008). The intercooled turbo has been engineered to minimize turbo lag as is now [illegible] Valve Control System has been added to boost performance over a broader rpm range while reducing emissions. Rushing 260 hp/ 350N rpm and 350 Nm/ 1600 rpm torque from between 2400 rpm and 5200 rpm, the 2.5 GT engine is mated to a 6-speed electronically controlled automatic transmission with Sequential Torque Shift function and steering wheel-mounted paddle shifters for transmatic-style operation.

Rally heritage

The Legacy 2.5 GT's performance does not match that of the awesome Subaru WRX STI, but remember, the Legacy is supposed to be an executive-class family sedan, not a World Rally Championship competition like the STI. Nevertheless, you will immediately feel the rally heritage of the Legacy 2.5 GT once you drive it. The 2.5 GT's top speed is factory-rated at 240 kph, but it runs feels like it can go faster than that.

The joy of driving the Legacy 2.5 GT at any speed is enhanced by Subaru intelligent DSI Drive. By swiping or pressing a knob centrally located below the gear box, you can adapt the throttle mapping and automatic transmission shifting behavior in any of three modes to suit your driving style and prevailing road conditions. For everyday, run-of-the-mill urban driving, press down the S(Auto) to enter the S(Auto) sport mode. For more torquey operation/shifting, twist the S(Auto) to the (S) Sport mode. And for maximum engine performance on the highway with direct and strong accelerator pedal response, twist the knob to the (S#) Sport Sharp mode. Whatever mode you choose, the Legacy 2.5 GT keeps to pace.

Sliding comfort belies that of an executive sedan, thanks to the 4-wheel independent suspension with MacPherson strut in front and a new double wishbone setup in the rear. Subaru's Dynamic Chassis Control Concept helps to isolate the engine and suspension from the cabin for a smoother, quieter ride.

Aside from ride quality the new Legacy offers more room/leg-room 0.6 longer, wider and taller than its predecessor. So there is no only greater head, hip, shoulder and leg room, but also increased trunk capacity—big enough to swallow four golf bags. In the refined, off-black leather interior, four cupholders, a roomy console, armrests front and rear, front door pockets with bottle holders and pockets in the front seatbacks offer ample storage space for smaller items. The leather-wrapped steering wheel has audio and cruise controls aside from paddle shifters while the dash has a multi-info display, an electronic parking brake and a new ECO gauge among the built-in instruments.

Airbirds

While the Legacy's exterior redesign won't win any awards for aerodynamics, the bulging headlamps, sharp creases, rectangular wheel shield, 18-inch wheels, side skirts, short trunk overhang and twin tailpipes project an athletic stance. A glass sun roof, rain-sensing windshield wipers, heated door mirrors, keyless entry, power driver's seat, 4-way steering column, dual zone air conditioning system, dual front and side curtain airbags and fog lamps are standard equipment.

The safety package includes Vehicle Dynamics Control, brake assist and curtain airbags (with Motion Sensors) for occupants and engine. 4 wheel disc brakes, ABS, EBD, brake assist, ESD (electronic stability control) and vehicle dynamics control.

Motor Image, the Philippine distributor of Subaru cars, sells only the 2.5 GT models of the 2014 Legacy lineup at P1,998,000 for the sedan and P2,098,000 for the station wagon. My fearless forecast: the Legacy 2.5 GT's competitive pricing will soon challenge the rotund sedans' niche BMW and Audi sedans for market share.

THE NEW Legacy's 2.5-liter twin-cam turbo Subaru boxer engine.

MORE: more leg room it is longer and wider than its predecessor

THE JOY of driving at any speed is enhanced by Subaru intelligent (S) Drive.

AN INCREASED trunk capacity big enough to swallow four golf bags.

Two new sports crossovers

From page B1

go capacity, eclipsing many large sedan boots. Both second- and third-row seats fold flat to allow additional storage all the way up to the back of the front seats.

Since its launch in 2007, the Mazda CX-9 has proven to be the sporty utility vehicle known for its athleticism, head-turning safety and versatility. Mazda's luxury crossover SUV has now reinvented the crossover SUV segment in the country and for the last quarter of this year, Mazda Philippines has sold or lobbed the Mazda CX-9 with significant exterior and interior facelifts.

CX-9's safety features

The new CX-9's safety features are highlighted by an advanced roll stability control system that uses both body-roll and wheel-speed sensors to determine when corrective action is necessary. Four-wheel ventilated disc brakes include an Anti-lock Brake System (ABS) to prevent locking during emergency use. Electronic brake force distribution controls front-to-rear distribution of braking force to take full advantage of available traction during stops.

The new CX-9 is equipped with 20-inch aluminum wheels and tires, HID head lamps, and power front-seat adjusters.

The CX-7 is now available for P1,695,800 while the new CX-9 is currently priced at P2,898,800.

Mazda dealerships are located in Alabang, Greenhills, Makati, Quezon Avenue, Batangas, Cebu and Davao. For more information, please visit www.mazda.com.ph.

MAZDA Philippines vice president for marketing and sales Steven Tan (left) and dealer sales officer Jean Arden launch

MotorScope

More help to flood victims from Ford

FORD GROUP PHILIPPINES (FGP) AND ITS DEALERS ARE extending additional discounts of up to P50,000 for Ford and Mazda to rebuild owners who wish to replace their units damaged by recent typhoons and floods. This is on top of the current promotions already being offered by Ford and Mazda.

The Vehicle Replacement Program incentive is valid from November 1 to 30 and is available to Ford and Mazda vehicles brought to authorized dealers for repair that were either classified as fully submerged and not running, or submerged and running.

Qualified Ford customers may avail of a P50,000 discount for new vehicle purchase—the Ford Focus, Ford Escape and the Ford Ranger. A P40,000 incentive is available for the Ford Everest while a P60,000 incentive is offered for the Ford Explorer, Ford Expedition and Ford E-150.

Meanwhile, qualified Mazda customers may avail of a P50,000 discount for the Mazda2, Mazda3, Biber and BT-50. A P40,000 discount is available for the Mazda6 and a P60,000 incentive is available for the MX-5 and the CX-9.

Additionally, FGP is extending its service promotions period until November 30. To assist Ford and Mazda customers who wish to repair their flood damaged vehicles, FGP will continue to offer a 20% discount on selected Ford-related parts and a 30% discount on labor for authorized dealerships.

For more information and contact details of Ford and Mazda dealers, log on to www.ford.com.ph or www.mazda.com.ph.

Isuzu holiday discount for D-Max, Crosswind

ISUZU SEREMBAN POWER BLAST promo is offering huge discounts for those planning to buy either this D-Max or the Crosswind this month.

From November 15 until the 30th, buyers of Isuzu D-MAX instantly get a price cut of up to P50,000 while those who opt for the Crosswind are entitled to as much as a P20,000 rebate.

The Isuzu D-Max and Crosswind are considered two of the most stylishly detailed vehicles in their market.

The 2014 D-Max, with an upgraded radiator grille and hood ornament, exudes an elegant machismo that is uniquely Isuzu. The D-Max likewise sports a new step tube and comes a 4x4 decal on its 4-wheel drive versions and the interior boasts of interior vents, shift gatenol speaker bezels made of chrome. It comes in four colors, Vanda Green, Sahara Gold, Magma Red and Splash White.

The Isuzu Crosswind, hailed as the 2009 SUV of the Year in the recently-concluded Autodeal People's Choice Awards, also received a facelift. For its exterior, Isuzu installed a redesigned six-hole fully-embossed radiator grille complemented by a new lower bumper design with silver garnish, new halogen projector-type headlamps and new chrome garnish for foglamps. The newly-chromed power folding side mirrors now sports an amber lens. What's more, the 2014 Crosswind has a new space-like seats at the back.

The Isuzu Holiday Power Blast is on at any Isuzu dealership nationwide. Log on to www.isuzuphil.com for more details.

LEFT to right, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. vice president Jose Maria Kalaw, Lexus Manila, Inc. president Leonel Isa, Alabang Country Club, Inc. president Ramon Villa-Lorenzo and 2014 ACCI Super Raffle committee chair Paul Cortes

Lexus, Toyota in 2014 Alabang Super Raffle

LEXUS MANILA INC. AND TOYOTA MOTOR Philippines are partnering with the Alabang Country Club, Inc. (ACCI) for one of their biggest annual events, the 2014 Alabang Country Club Super Raffle which will feature the world-renowned Lexus LS460 sedan. The event will also showcase some select Toyota for ACCI's Corporate Social Responsibility efforts.

Lexus Manila will offer the newest and most stylish member of the Lexus lineup, the 2014 Lexus IS300 Convertible. The IS300C, in Dark Red Mica Metallic is the touch-sought-after grand prize. It is powered by a 2.5L V6 engine with dual variable valve timing with intelligence (VVTi) and is equipped with a new six-speed sequential manually-controlled transmission (SCT). The IS300C boasts of an elegant three-part retractable hard top, with a retracting time of just 23 seconds.

Toyota, meanwhile, will provided most of the big prizes to be raffled off. They include the Toyota Hiace GL Grandia 2.5 3DT, Toyota Hilux 2.5 E Diesel 4x2 MT and the Toyota Vios 1.5 G M/T.

BPI Family bundles route loan with free lessons

AS PART OF BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK'S (BFSB) commitment to increase awareness on safe riding for motorcycles on the road, the bank ensures the incorporation of At-Source safety riding lessons as part of its loan policy dubbed Ride your Dream Motorcycle Loan Free Safety Riding Lessons.

"As the industry grows and motorcycle purchases become easier and hassle-free, BPI Family Savings Bank also understands the growing need for safety lessons that will equip motorists with proper safety and training guidelines for acquisition, ownership and usage of their new motorcycle units," said Dave Sarmiento, BFSB Senior Vice President and Head of Auto and Motorcycle Loans.

Along with answering the increasing demand for a cost-efficient means of transportation through the affordable interest, BFSB has also made an effort to promote road safety through a partnership with Honda Safety Driving Center. The Ride your Dream Motorcycle Loan Free Safety Riding Lessons promo is BFSB's proactive step to make available affordable motorcycle financing as well as strengthen the borrower's road safety quotient through the expert safety riding training provided by the Center. The promo runs until December 31, 2014. For more details, call 845-6982 or visit any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch.

Quantum leap for Suzuki

Text and photos by Charles E. Bohan

WITH ABOUT 3.8 MILLION UNITS officially registered at the Land Transportation Office and many more unaccounted, the motorcycle is the ride of choice among Filipinos these days.

"There's no denying that a motorcycle is the country's most popular form of transport with some 3.8 million units registered as compared to the 1.2 million registered four-wheeled counterpart," said Suzuki Philippines motor marketing manager Benedict Arreola.

Aside from being fuel-efficient as it can cover 35 to 40 kilometers per liter of gasoline, the scooter's relatively low price also drives the motorcycles' popularity as many Filipinos still consider cars a large purchase and not something to rush out and buy on the drop of a hat.

"This is why to one of the major motorcycle manufacturers in the country, it is our duty to provide the market with models that could uplift their lives as well as define their lifestyle," explained Suzuki Philippines assistant GM for motorcycle sales and marketing Eiji Kobayashi at the unveiling of its latest 125cc scooter.

Kobayashi said the Suzuki Skydrive 125 attractively priced at P68,800 is no just a scooter with new flashy bodywork.

Sporty look

Converting to the Skydrive 125 has purpose. Its fairings are meant to improve its aerodynamic qualities that not only make the scooter more fancy but also allow it to use even less gasoline. Moreover, the scooter's 14-inch alloy wheels not only add to the sporty look but also sheds announced weight.

The Skydrive 125, which features an improved four-stroke, air-cooled, four 2-compliant engine, is already compatible with E10 (10 percent ethanol and 90 percent gasoline mixture).

This not only increases the engine's compression ratio (for higher engine efficiency) but also reduces the emission of carbon monoxide thus boosting the campaign for cleaner air in the metropolis.

Quantum leap

The Skydrive 125's advance electronic fuel injection certainly marks a quantum leap for Suzuki, according to Arreola.

The Fuel Injection system simultaneously optimizes fuel supply to various running conditions. It features an innovative Discharge Pump Fuel Injection and ultra-modern Engine Control Module that enhances engine performance and fuel efficiency (the Skydrive is rated to 120 deliver a 33 to 40 kilometers per liter efficiency, which is certainly an excellent achievement for a scooter).

According to Suzuki Philippines president Satoshi Ochida, the Skydrive 125's complements Suzuki's current CVT models, the Step 125 and Hayate and was delighted that this early 120 units were already sold.

"The market's growing demand for this type of motorcycles shows that more and more Filipinos are looking for personal rides that are easy to operate, cost efficient, reliable, easy to maintain and service," said Suzuki Philippines managing director Catalina Calderon.

Calderon added that with its popularity the company is also advocating safety riding.

"I will built respect like the Skydrive will still depend on its rider who should possess the necessary skills and strict attention to safety. After all, the time you save commuting by scooter is too valuable to spend in a hospital's emergency room," she said.

Suzuki Philippines executives, from left, Benedict Arreola, Eiji Kobayashi, Catalina Calderon and Satoshi Ochida.

Tips on motorcycle riding

SUZUKI Skydrive 125 is built for speed and fuel efficiency.

By Charles E. Bohan

MOTORCYCLE RIDING IS DANGEROUS.

But the risks can always be minimized if only motorcycle riders find the time to train on the necessary skills and knowledge in handling themselves with other vehicles and public in time on the road.

"While riding one is just as easy as riding a bike it doesn't mean one should also behave like if they are just riding a bike. Handle your motorcycle the way you would drive a four-wheeled vehicle," advises Suzuki Philippines motor marketing manager Benedict Arreola.

Considering that motorcycle riders are more exposed to the elements, Arreola was close to saying that helmets must come with the purchase of a motor bike whether big or small.

Helmets are a necessary, not a fashion accessory or some annoying head gear. Any serious motorcycle rider understands the importance of the safety helmets provide and this is something that any rider should consider right after buying a motorcycle.

"In as much as we would like us to include the helmet into our's motorcycle purchase, we have to consider the fact that our heads are sized differently and a helmet should fit snuggly into our head to be of use to us," said Arreola.

But apart from wearing a helmet, Arreola also offered these few tips that would ensure an accident free motorcycle riding.

1. Check your ride, your gear. It pays to check if you have all your gears with you (including your license and your rider's registration), if your ride has enough gasoline, your tires are properly inflated and your brake and signal lights working.

2. Don't assume that drivers or pedestrians always see you. While a lot of motorcycle accidents are caused by others violating the rider's right of way, as a motorcycle rider, one should also learn to anticipate the action of the vehicles or pedestrians in front. Always think that this bus or jeepney ahead will make a sudden stop or reserve in your lane or that person on the sidewalk would suddenly dart across the street.

3. Don't drink and ride. If driving drunk is already dangerous think of how it can even be more perilous if you are riding open (less) or sleepy while on board. There will be no seat frame or airbag or seatbelt that would cushion a crash or collision.

4. Obey traffic and rules of the road. A lot of times, accidents happen when the rider breaches the speed limit, beats the traffic light, counters the traffic flow, disobeys or rails a vehicle too close.

5. Give way. You and your motorcycle weigh about a hundred kilos. You'll never have a chance if you find yourself colliding with or bumping a car that weighs a ton.

6. Get plenty of exercise and sleep. Remember, riding a motorcycle is more physically demanding than driving a car and involves a high level of concentration. For this reason, it is even more important to ensure you are fit and well rested.

7. Keep your riding skills honed through refreshers. The roadway of years you have been riding is no assurance that you are already a skilled rider. Complete a formal riding education program and take riding courses from time to time to sharpen your street riding strategies.

New Developed Euro 3 K10B engine

4-speed Auto Gear A/T

Keyless Entry System

Front Dual Air bags + ABS

3 YEARS WARRANTY OR 100,000 KM

SUZUKI Way of Life!

ALABANG (02) 809-2894 · BACOLOD (034) 707-8000 · ILOILO (033) 470-0400 · CABANATUAN (044) 463-0240 · CAGAYAN DE ORO (08822) 728-844 · CEBU (032) 340-8888 · CUBAO (02) 912-0888 · DAVAO (082) 234-0000 · GENERAL SANTOS (083) 552-0888 · IMUS (046) 471-1000 · KALIDORIA (02) 364-8000 · LAGUNA (02) 520-8133 · MAKATI (02) 893-3000 · MANILA BAY (02) 526-1370 · NAGA (054) 811-1000 · PAMPANGA (045) 961-2877 · PASIG (02) 634-0401 · QUEZON (042) 710-1834 · SUCAT (02) 776-8888 · TARLAC (045) 982-1482 · TUGUEGARAO (078) 844-1111

www.suzuki.com.ph

MOTORING

Editor Joey R. Arcano

'Auto fashionistas' keep growing

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GLOBAL RECESSION MAY HAVE caused local vehicle sales to decline almost every month this year, but auto enthusiasts are still getting their fill of "new" rides by tricking up the vehicles that they already have.

According to Sophie Ortiz-Santos, president of auto-class organizer Tradeshow International Inc. (TSI), "auto fashionistas" are still dressing up their ride inside and out to a level of self-expression.

Citing the results of the first automotive lifestyles survey conducted by the Philippine Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association last year, she said the majority of the more than 1,000 respondents sunned greased performance or the desire to make a personal statement as their primary reason for customizing their vehicles.

Function was only secondary, the survey revealed.

At the TSI-organized 2009 Tuner Sport Show, for example, Debra Santos said the business for restoration and detailing was "brisk, with car owners looking to have their cars upholstered or customized with body kits. Custom wheels and tires were in demand, as well as performance products.

"I believe that when car sales go down, the demand for maintenance products and replacement parts go up, largely due to the vehicle owners' desire to keep their vehicles in good running condition now that they have

(MORE BIZ)

AUTO FILES

Insurance firms' folly

THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF CAR owners cringing in their bank payments on their flood-damaged vehicles after finding out that their vehicles did not have Act of God coverage. (New here's the twist: Those banks would then turn to an insurance company who holds the policy on these damaged cars, demanding the owners' balance be paid by the insurance firm, to avoid the loan being declared as "non-performing." The question here is, is the insurance firm going to or the banks demands be free of being loan sure? Dona-El Salazar

All-new Tucson coming in town

Hyundai is preparing for next month's launch of the all-new Tucson, known outside the country as the ix35. There are reports that only the gasoline model of the 4X2 Tucson will be made available to the local market although the priority 4X4 will have the diesel version. Considered as a small SUV, the Tucson will be ranged against mother Isuzu's Crosswind and Fortuner as well as the newly-launched CR-V and 09X Jorg Arcano

Obvious trick by gas station

One well-mannered gas station along Kamagong Street in Makati was closed the whole day last Sunday with a sign reading "soon at work." Pissing motorists were overheard quipping: "They're just keeping the old stock so they could sell it at a higher price come Monday (when the price hence is announced)." Cunning little devils, aren't they? Dhalsaw

CKDs lose their advantage

On Jan. 1, 2010, the customs duties on completely built-up vehicles (fully assembled CBUs) shipped in from Asean countries will certainly become cut. That means, CBU imports will, by then, enjoy the same duty privileges as CKD (completely knocked down) imports. This means, feathers that it would now be easier to import and market CBUs than CKDs. CKDs require assembly, which would be labor and facilities intensive. But then, what happens to the auto plants in the country? What happens to the jobs they generate, and to other allied businesses, such as local parts makers? Dhalsaw

Chevy chases Waiting for Cruze

In the recent inauguration of the Covenant Car Co., Inc. as the new exclusive distributor of Chevrolet motor vehicles, the principals headed by Richard L. Lee and Albert Ayala vowed to bring a new corporate culture to improve General Motors' business operations in the country. Antonio Zaza, GM's vice president for ASEAN Asia, Marketing and Aftersales who flew in from Thailand to attend the event, said that the new Chevy Cruze compact car would be launched in March next year but wouldn't say exactly when.

Auto Files learned that at the GM headquarters in Detroit, where changes to culture is also underway, the executive committee approved the Dec. 20 request of global engineering head Mark Reuss to delay for three months the costs of the Cruze. The New York Times reported over the weekend that Reuss told the delay was needed to improve engine performance and the quietness of the Cruze's ride to be up to par with the segment leading Honda Civic. Aldy S. Mendoza

LIFESTYLE Parenting

'Baby etiquette': Tricks to handle your kid's tantrums

How I soothe the savage beastie that is my angel Gabriel

By Marguerite Y. Lonzo-Chan
Contributor

LET'S FACE IT: AS CUTE AS babies are, they can also be trouble for their parents and carers—and because we live in the real world, annoying for people around us.

As full-time mom, I don't have the luxury of containing "their" whenever my toddler has a tantrum. I have to figure out what he wants, how to give it. And I must do it fast and without making a bigger scene than he has already put on.

Here are five tips and tricks I have come up with over the past 19 months (my how time flies!) to soothe the savage beastie that is my angel Gabriel.

Schedule events around your baby's schedule

When my son was less than three weeks old, he attended lunch given by the board of a UE bank and was a total angel. He also went to another bank's cocktail in six months, prompting my banker to promise to never "baby cocktails" in their subsequent events. Again, he was an angel—mainly because I accepted only invitations for events that fell within his nap times.

On my last trip back to Manila, my toddler was particularly irritable at night, which was when my mom would usually schedule dinners with the seemingly endless list of tita and tito who wanted to see him. It was embarrassing, but I had to stop accepting dinner invites and settle for brunches or merienda, when he was at his friendliest.

Foregoing dinners proved better for him as well. Bringing home meant he could be put to bed at a decent time for babies (my son normally sleeps when we sleep... which could be as late as midnight!).

This advice is most effective before the age of 1, when we can predict when babies doze off, but is less so after, when naptimes become shorter and less frequent.

Tune in to what your baby likes

Younger babies are easier to soothe. A bottle of milk or a pacifier can usually do the trick, but older ones are less so. They are easily distracted and can be set off by anything. To keep my little one happy I carry, literally, a bag of tricks.

My son loves clattering, with cell phones and other things that light up. He is totally entrepreneurial by the way versions, of which he has many, and is only satisfied by his dad's Blackberry or my Nokia—both of which have battle scars from being bitten, licked or, worse, flung in the direction of phones.

To keep him happy, I changed an old Blackberry and an even older Nokia and keep them in his baby bag. I even put the same wallpapers and ring tones that are on my real phones to convince him the phones are the same. Unless anyone shouts out "Starbucks," don't worry because the phones have no SIM or signal and are useless inside.

More recently, I uploaded some of his favorite songs from the TV show "Yo Gabba Gabba" into his cell phones, which, for some reason probably only known to the show's producers, can calm him in an instant. On the other hand, my friend's daughter likes looking at photos of her things, so her mom's I-Phone memory is used up on snapshots of Hero, Harvey and... well, you get the picture.

Meet and greet

Bringing my son busy on long-haul flights is particularly difficult as turning on the cell phone, even without a signal, is nonconvenient. Bringing a portable DVD is not only inconvenient, but irritating to the other passengers as well.

HOW TO CI

ALL READY! to dance the rigodon de honor: (from) Valerio, Chino Enriquez, Nena Lacson and Nikki Valerio

CO-CHAIRPERSONS Rose Lozano and Cita Lozada, CWC hard-working president Mona Badillo, chair Karen Marasigan and co-chair Mabel Alunan

'Rigodon de honor' highlights CWC's fund-raising ball

PICKS Pascual with the women (and one gentleman) of the Ayala Group of Companies (back) Marlene Bernardino, Carol Torres Nilo, AC Ocampo, Joy Palileo, Cora Dizon, Myrna Fernandez, Mel Mia Bascon, Joseph Rees and Cathy Bargoza (front, seated) Reenna Tanabian and Marlet Alcantara

PICKS with Ginggoy Dela Merced

PENSHOPPE brand director Alex Mendoza and Golden ABC president and CEO Bonnie Liu

PERRO Sasha Vergara and Annette Damaso

MAITE Montes with Ayni Mustafaa and Pilar Tuason

REP SONGBOOK Marcos and Sen. Miguel Zubiri with young Muslim couple Bai Chenna Dilangalen and Dato Hanafu "Jhong" Ampatuan Maraparang

IT'S THE 60TH BIRTHDAY of the Catholic Women's Club, dahlings, which they celebrated with a great ball dubbed "Nay Ating Rahajon sa Ngayon" at the Polo Club. "It's our continuing service in God and the community," said its president, secretary of interior Nonoy T. Sandico, we bow.

Aside from raising funds for CWC's many projects, the group also has a vocational scholarship program in partnership with the Don Bosco Vocational Institute, Tahanan Village and CWC-trained Bahays in Taguig City. The club's major beneficiaries include patronesses of the arts and philanthropists, the ladies plan: Imelda Cojuangco, Esther Vilod, Cielo and Donna Cojuangco, Santiago-Low, popular singer-restaurateur Cynthia Villar, lady of substance and steward of Guatemala Sheilla Ahhaus plus Digoy.

The highlights were the rigodon de honor and jazz-disko numbers, participated in by the officers and members of the CWC.

A great fun night for these ladies who are always extending a helping hand to the less fortunate, palanggas.

Pisio's Christmas concert

One of the main highlights of the Ayala Malls' series of holiday activities that include special sales and silent auctions will be an (unknown palanggas) free 2:30 at Greenbelt 5, where a Christmas concert will be held by music women's fantasy, Pisio Pascual, no less. In an intimate gathering at the Tapilla restaurant in Greenbelt 5, the sleek, hospitality big headcome Pisio gave him advance to engage Rome his performance. "It's Christmas, of course, we will do some Christmas songs but done very differently, especially with Mr. C around, plus some remakes and originals," leaked how the idea of having a Christmas concert at the Ayala Malls came about. Pisio smiles, "I think it's a great idea. And it's for a good cause. With everything that's been happening in our country, events like this, where we are able to help through the auction or by simply just giving happiness through entertainment, become more meaningful." The concert will be directed by the genius Ryan Cayabyab, and stage direction will be by Ashanty Muzahan, dahlings.

All the different events at the Ayala Malls will have for its beneficiary Bagit Ning Pare Sa Ilog Pasig.

Yes, let the street child in us help spread the love of Santa, straight out of a Christmas factory at all Ayala Malls, palang-ay.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH: Monster Arcache

Photos by Alex Ben Hagen using YOU Photo Solutions

Penshoppe dinner show

An exclusive all-dinner dinner and fashion show during Philippine Fashion Week near the beginning of a shift to casual dressing up trend "Penshoppe: Bethtastic." The dinner show was attended by tons of personalities, including Penshoppe's circle of endorsers "Celebrities" as we call them.

"We are re-imagining Penshoppe," said Bonnie Liu, president and CEO of Golden ABC, as we took our seats at Pen long, lavishly set banquet tables. "We are happy that you are among the first to witness our re-imagining." Golden ABC also owns and runs Oxygen, Alcott, Forth, Bogatta and about selling subsidiary Bed Logo.

Over our four-course dinner superbly prepared by Margarita Forum, we were watched as models strode between the banquet tables and stood on tabletops and podiums as emcee of the company, in white and futuristic outfits designed by Rusal Wanniwa.

Creative? If fashion theorist and stylist Val Arambulo commented, "Penshoppe has evolved! It's definitely more versatile and up-to-date, not only for the young but for the young at heart as well."

At the end of the one-of-a-kind happening, a toast was led by Alliant Ong, vice president for marketing at Golden ABC. "Penshoppe Brilliant is only the beginning of our re-imagining. You can expect more exciting changes in the coming months," he concluded, dahlings.

Maguindanao wedding

The most sweetest Maguindanao Muslim wedding of the year was recently held at the Manila Bahaiman Cultural Center, DSC Compound. It was a living testament to Maguindanao's rich culture and history.

Twenty-one-year-old young and good-looking groom Dato Mamodo "Jhong" Ampatuan-Macaperning, grandson of Maguindanao political kingpin Gov. Datu Sadal Ampatuan and Bai Lidia Uy and his attractive bride, Bai Chenna Dilangalen, 22, only daughter of Rep. Datu Didagen Piang Dilangalen and former Rep. Bai Simbolig Kalindra Dilangalen, were "the symbol of unity in Maguindanao."

Senator President Juan Ponce Enrile, together with Rep. Ferdinand Martin Jr., Sen. Miga Zubiri, Marguerite Tingting Cojuangco, Rep. Jonathan dela Cruz and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada were in Cotabato City, in spite of the heavy rainfall to witness the palanggas.

The two lovebirds are in good terms politically but Dato Jhong was head over heels in love with Bai Chenna. "It started with friendship. I searched in her but love conquers all," the handsome groom Dato Jhong explained.

Bai Chenna is a registered pharmacist and is taking up law at San Beda, while Dato Jhong is taking up Law+management at the University of the Visayas. Dato Jhong is the second son of the late Datu Salih Mamalou Pangalamon Macaperning and Bai Shaydee Uy Ampatuan. The wedding was a family production. The motif was definitely Modern inspired with a touch of chic Pinkish, dahlings.

The family roots of the newlyweds come from super well-to-do Muslim families in Maguindanao, palanggas.

SEATED: Marian and Helen Ong with Linda Pamintuan (back) Carrie Bautista

SOMEVACTOR Esther Vilod with Jake Dumalaro

REP CYNTHIA Villar and Bro. Eleuka Binay

AQUA was their choice of color for the fall. Lit Aduna, Baby Ortiz, Shoy Mojares

REP DIDAGEN Dilangalen with his wife Bainonig and handsome son Datu Nur Dilangalen

BAI SHAYDEE Ampatuan

SEN. JOHNNY Ponce Enrile and Tingting Cojuangco

'Baby etiquette': Tricks to handle . . .

Front page C1

So I literally got help—from the sweet flirting makes a long-haul flight more bearable for them—but we appreciate little passenger, as we go to the galley and make friends with the team. Besides, babies are naturally inquisitive, so new faces, especially smiling ones (my son has a "thing" for pretty girls), help keep them occupied and curious.

Making friends also makes long trips easier on the parents. We took footsteps on our flight back to Manila and my son was so popular (they called him "The Happy Baby" and took a group photo), that on my husband's flight back, the same crew happened to be on board and gave him extra special treatment!

Personalize your pushchair

You know how the good ol' Pinoy jeepney is supposedly decreased inside and out? Well, that's what my pushchair looks like. Short of painting our favorite places on the chassis, my pushchair has all the toys and books that my son likes attached to it.

At first, I bought generic toy attachments, but my son tired of them when he turned 1.

Stuffed toys are only interesting to younger babies, but are totally boring to older ones who like more interactive play things. Before settling off each day, my son goes into his toy drawers and picks out his toys and books for the day.

Some book companies even make mini-books that attach to pushchairs. My son loves them, so I keep a small selection for him on those front.

If you choose to use ready-made plastic toys, make sure to alternate them. I found that doing so kept my son from getting bored and angry when he was younger. I know he needed a change when he started attaching the poor little stuffed alligator on one attachment.

> When all else fails, give him a hug—then bring him outside

Bring lots of snacks

One reason babies were serving up is simple—sheer hunger. I've realized they just don't have the same mealtimes we have. It's counterproductive to force them to eat when they're not hungry, or conversely, to not feed them when they actually are.

I read a book when I was pregnant that is was good to get babies on a schedule. I tried it when I first started weaning my son, but he didn't like it and would vomit when I forced him on me. Now, I leave to him and he eats six or seven times a day, but never in large quantities (how lucky he is to have infinite portion control!).

He has a selection of snacks in his baby bag, which I put in the smallest size plastic containers I can find to minimize wastage and so I can change the selection frequently. I usually have a fibrous snack like wholegrain Cheerios, a savory like organic cheese puffs and a sweet treat like fat lover Gyrafix rusk, Strawberries and Cream cookies from Cadbury & Barbys.

Make them feel wanted

My son likes feeling like he's part of the gang, so to make him feel like an "adult," I bring his portable seat wherever I can and let him eat at the table and at our level. This way he doesn't feel alienated and he ends up fascinated by the other guests. We've even done away with his high chair at home and just attached another portable seat permanently onto our dining chair. It has made all the difference. He really did see like his high chair and tend to jump out of it more than once.

I also order food I know he will like and let him eat like us. If I get a bread roll, I encourage it by give him some to try. I also use the available napkins as a bib and set for a small bowl for him to eat from. Amazingly, he has not broken a single thing in my restaurant. In fact, he even gives me his bowl and utensils when he's done saying (and he's only 15 months old!).

If they do scream, hug them—then walk out

When all else fails, and believe me when I say it has happened to me more than a few times, give them a hug. Nothing makes babies calm down faster than a mother's hug. Besides, the moment you hug a crying baby, no one can get mad at you. They can stare at you and secretly wish you would take him out of the restaurant (others will do, anyway), but they will all automatically sympathize and say "Awww..."

arix

SULIT TIPS PARA KAY MISIS

Windows®. Life without Walls™.
HP recommends Windows 7.

EXPLORE A PARADISE OF GETAWAYS AT HOME

HP Pavilion p6000 series Home PC

Windows® 7 make the things you do everyday faster and easier.

Windows 7 Home Premium

hp

Now that's a credit card that never sleeps.

For busy people, the convenience that today's technology offers is priceless. Mobile technology, in particular, has elevated the way we do things—from communication to charging purchases. Now, it has also changed the way people manage their credit card accounts, where all it takes is sending a text message or two to access their account information wherever they choose, whenever they maybe.

Frequent traveler Rodrigo Lanuzon spends his time exploring the world with his wife. "My wife and I love to travel together and take every opportunity to do so. It's our special time to get away, explore new places and learn about new cultures," shares Lanuzon.

While the couple enjoys unwinding in different parts of the globe, staying on top of things before and during their trips can be stressful. Shares Rodrigo, "While I try and plan ahead, there's always that one thing you forget in every trip. Thanks to my Citi card, I never have to worry about running out of cash. Through my Citi Mobile SMS Banking Service, I can also check my Citi account anytime or from anywhere just by sending a text message. Now that's a credit card that never sleeps."

To find out more about Citi Mobile, visit www.citibank.com.ph

Great to be Back in Baguio.

Great to be back at The MANOR at Camp John Hay!

Baguio's premiere hotel welcomes back with up to 50% DISCOUNT on suites!

ROOM TYPE	MAXIMUM CAPACITY	REGULAR RATES	BOUNCE BACK RATES*
Superior	2 persons	~~P3,300.00~~	P2,900.00
Deluxe	2 persons	~~P3,600.00~~	P3,150.00
1-Bedroom	3 persons	~~P7,500.00~~	P3,850.00
2-Bedroom	4 persons	~~P13,000.00~~	P6,150.00

*Inclusive of all applicable taxes and subject to room availability
Valid use for Dec. 23, 2009
Inclusive in the Bounce Back Rates promotion:
- Welcome cocktails at The Bistro Bar
- Complimentary Continental breakfast
- Complimentary Internet Access
- Complimentary Fruit Basket at The MANOR Suite

The MANOR Camp John Hay Baguio

CALL NOW! 845-0892 • 845-0911 • 687-6710 • 687-0351 • 687-6524

A Holiday for Young Royals at SM

Dress your little prince with this matching baby blue coat and shorts paired with sneakers for a glamorous yet rugged look

PRETTY kids dresses for your pretty little princesses

Modern Princess

Just as there is something of a princess in young girls, young boys also have a princely side to them. This Christmas let them dress the royal part with Modern Princess and Princess clothes from SM!

Little girls are ready for their pretty portraits in elegant white dresses blooming with floral garden prints and appliqués. Little boys, on the other hand, are dapper in suits for young gentlemen.

And don't forget to treat your kids to a night of magical fun at the Modern Prince and Princess Fashion Show on Sunday, November 22, 2009 at 6:00 PM at the Skydome in SM City North EDSA. A P 2,000.00 minimum single receipt purchase at SM's Infants and Children's Wear Departments entitles one to one free entrance ticket for two.

The Modern Princes and Princess collection is available at the Children's Wear Department of all SM stores.

CLASSIC white dresses with floral appliques are portrait perfect for little princesses

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Available at the Infants', Children's and Pre-Teens' Wear Departments

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

Say hello to 'Miss Christmas'

She's gathered décor for over 25 years, and stylist Tony Rodriguez is turning the treasures of Christmases past into something new

CHRISTMAS trees decked with glass balls and crystals

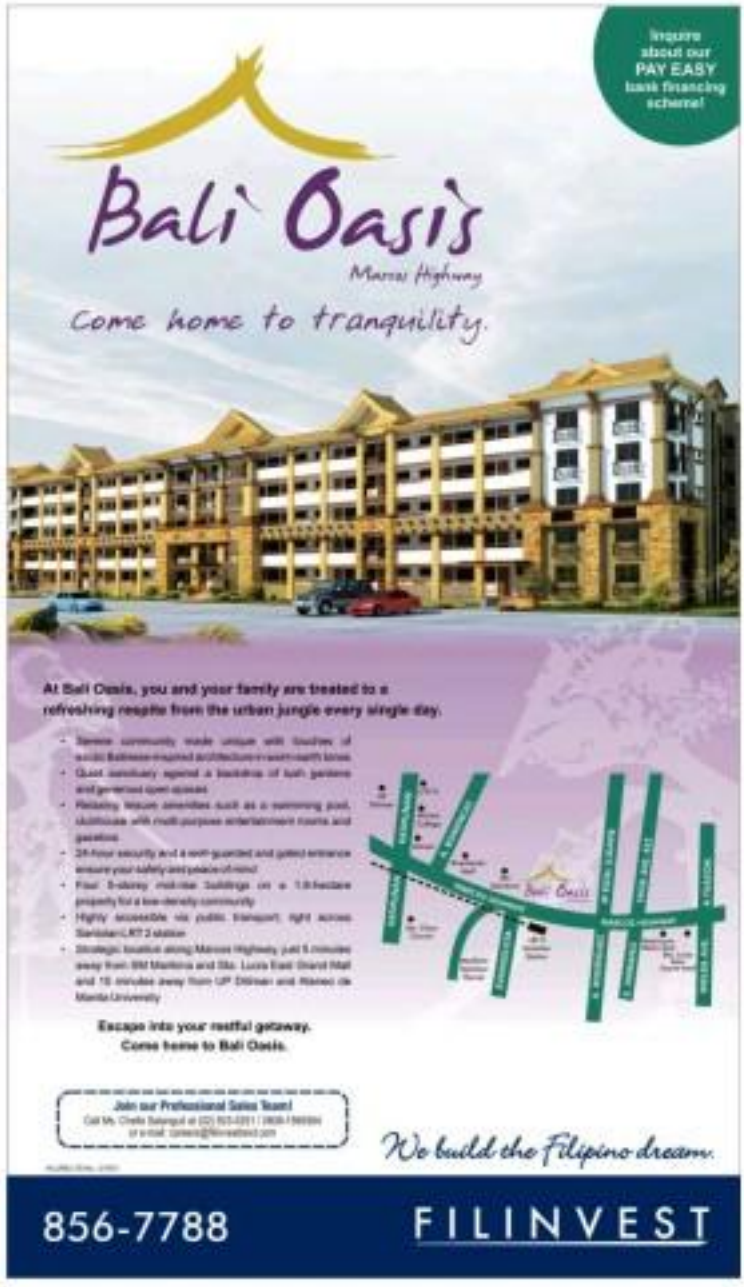
CLASSIC lighting fixtures give the Christmas tree a sophisticated look.

By Anne A. Jamiseo

WHEN FLORAL DESIGNER and stylist Tony Rodriguez took the task of decorating a sprawling home in Quezon City with trinkets and ornaments collected from all over for 25 years, he was overcome with excitement. Not only is the collection the best he has ever seen in his career, he said, but also, the homeowner is a personal friend of his since.

"Miss Helen," as Rodriguez calls her, is a petite ex-banker we met on the day of the shoot. (She asked that her name be withheld.) Her presence seems larger than the massive architecture of her house. She speaks of her collection as if they were old friends—with admiration, familiarity and deep respect.

They have their own boxes, most of them still in their original packaging, and have been kept dry and sealed all year long. They are brushed and/or wiped clean before they're stored—obviously "Miss Helen" wants order, cleanliness and discipline.



Say hello to 'Miss Christmas'

From page D1

Ribbons, for instance, are first wiped clean, closely rolled back, wrapped, before curled away in their boxes.

Now scrapping close to two bodegas, the boxes are each labeled according to color, size, shape, etc. Hodgson said he is still in awe of how nearly everything he wanted was just a mere whisper away.

"I need table napkins," he'd say.

"Sure. What color do you want—red, green, cobalt blue, etc? What size—small, medium, huge, extra large? Square, rectangular, long, short? Curved edges? Sharp edges?" she'd reply.

She has super-large roses flown in from the US to the early '80s, back when it was perfectly legal to bring home a boatful of them, now painted in gold, her place mats are handmade lace from Brussels, with her

SEE MISS, D3

METAL grills (left) on rounds inspired Rodriguez to come up with a Spanish theme, echo shown from a collection of seashells to decorate the second floor (above).

VIEW FROM THE TOP The Marin Buena table as seen from the second floor (topmost photo). Christmas plates on handmade lacework place mats exclusively made for "Miss Helen" in Brussels, with sterling silver napkin holders (above).

GARDEN setting at the garden, which sees large pine cones and tiny coconut shells painted in gold

Text INQ <space> ON <space> STYLE send to 4467 for SMS Alerts

Text INQMMS <space> ON <space> STYLE send to 4467 for MMS Alerts

WITH pillowcases designed by "Miss Helen," the gazebo (above and right) also showcases original guest-room mirrors, antique bands, and antique dressmaker glass floaters (left, on side table).

Say hello to 'Miss Christmas'

From page B1

initials sewn on them; her napkin holders, in sterling silver she bought from all over Europe—some are gifts from friends—come in different intricate designs.

Iridescent glass floaters (dumuwawit), used by fishermen during the Spanish era, are used as décor in the gazebo and candleholders in the Nativity set under the Starlet Beech table.

Christmas lights are the old-fashioned test tube–like glass with liquid bubbling up; acrylic dainty snowflake, from Spain, are hung over the entrance on the second floor and finished with deep red hibiscus to complement the season.

Centerpiece

The centerpiece décor, on a round table in the foyer, has deep red hydrangeas, red flutes, red poinsettias, red and green berries, pillars, greens, with pine cones in gold and pine needle leaves.

"They're like different scenes, in fashion, that you put together into one cohesive décor. You are mixing shapes in crystal balls, long leaves, tall candles and candelabras. Where you put them together it becomes like an artist's corner," Rodriguez said.

The Christmas tree is decorated with crystal and glass balls in clear and red color. A ribbon winds around the tree, and crystals, instead of a star, are nestled at the topmost part. The ribbon is sheer because, he said, "Miss Helen" loves fabrics (she prefers full-length table linen and motifs at half-length ones, for instance). The crystals symbolize her radiant, humorous life, Rodriguez said, while the round balls of glass and crystal represent money.

"I never buy anything that won't be of use to me in the future. That's why all these years I have never thrown anything, not one piece, away. I just pull them out when I need them," "Miss Helen" said.

The odd tables in her home are not exactly tables…they're chests. And they serve a purpose, too: chest boards go into them. Like the efficient mistress of the house, no space is wasted in the home.

"She may be a very strict strong-willed woman, being a leader that she once was, but she's very kind," Rodriguez said. "Miss Helen' has shown that a full, compassionate heart and for that she is like the rules cool."

TONY Rodriguez, floral artist and decorator

ESCOLTA

OLD WORLD

NEW ORDER

OPENING NOVEMBER 20.
CLASSIC OPULENCE MEETS MODERN-DAY ELEGANCE IN OUR NEWEST ALL-DAY BUFFET RESTAURANT.
FOR RESERVATIONS, CALL (632) 887-3388 OR EMAIL DINEINPMA@PENINSULA.COM.

ESCOLTA SERVES A LA CARTE AND BUFFET FOR BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND DINNER FROM 6 AM TO 10 PM.
AT THE PENINSULA MANILA, CORNER OF ayala AND MAKATI AVENUES, MAKATI CITY

Christmas decor trends go natural, simple

COLORful. Christmas trees

THE SIXTH EDITION OF MANILA FAME (International recently showcased new trends in Christmas decor.

Organized by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Cents), an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, every edition of the fair attracts some 2,000 local and foreign trade buyers.

The fair (visit www.manilafame.com) also affords Philippine exhibitors and designers to update their designs to keep up with the rest of the world.

Other than a trade platform for Philippine export products, the bi-annual fair exhibits interesting trends to Filipinos and Fashion.

For the 50th edition, holiday mood was shaped by the traditional colors of red and green. For this year, the funky and whimsical theme of the last season was replaced by the cool, serene and light colors of silver, blue and white.

"Because of the global recession and natural calamities, people would like to feel peaceful and happy," said Ginger Gonzalez-Acevedo, marketing director of Galleria Cecilia, an exhibitor of FAME's holiday decor hall.

Galleria's latest collection of holiday décor emphasized the usual decorations such as small Christmas trees, wreath wire silver reindeer and ornaments, but in deconstructed forms.

The pieces are sizeable enough to fit on top of tables.

TABLETOP Christmas trees

"Our clients are always looking for ways to entertain their guests during Christmas dinners like this festive fiesta," said Acevedo.

Known for using indigenous materials, Galleria maximized the use of capiz shells due to its color resembling pastel and soft. The total effect renders a relaxed weight that is a must-have for the holidays.

White and silver are also the color themes in Topa of Manila's child-like version of Santa Claus and snowman.

"Oftentimes, buyers donate the trends but

TOY-LIKE snowman

we also do product development to keep in touch with the market," said Bonnie Suarez, the export manager of Topa of Manila.

Topa presented the usual red and green motifs, progressing to the light colors like white and silver. Using only paper mâché, the exporter showcased products that are whimsical, light and quality.

While 10,000 reindeer in a white and silver Christmas, buyers continue to look out for decorations made of environmentally friendly materials.

Green Christmas was evident in the designs of Accord Pinoy Exports, Inc., whose use of recycled paper won for it the Kathy Hall of Fame award given to exhibitors who have won five Kathy Awards of Design Excellence.

"It is good to be recognized for our efforts," said Rowena Lagdameo, designer of Accord Pinoy. Their line of paper-made décor used recycled paper dyed and fashioned into double-row ornaments, tabletops and wreaths.

"Creativity is difficult when coming up with a collection but somehow we managed to push through," said Lagdameo.

Another exporter, Kariselle Industries, Inc., was inspired by nature.

"We have mixed trends from colors to design," said Paul Mendoza, designer of Kariselle. He made use of lotus, beads and seeds to come up with stylish Christmas trees, garlands, wreaths and snowflakes using vibrant colors.

Exhibit, book feature home makeovers

HANDYMAN AT HOMEMAKER Place Ortigas recently held the Home Improvement Fair, which highlighted Handyman's wide array of quality products.

The exhibit showed the use of Handyman items in practical but innovative ways in the home.

Do It Best Quality Home demonstrated computerized paint mixing to enhance and liven up the home.

Partners of Handyman in the exhibit were Black & Decker, MCG, Royal Tern Ceramics, Mont Tajhar, Philips Lighting, Stanley Tools, Do it Best Quality Paints.

During the fair, the book, "Rooms by Room Makeovers: 27 Before and Afters and 101 Tips," a collaboration between Handyman and Real Living Magazine, was launched.

Over the years, Handyman has been actively supporting Real Living's home makeovers. The stories of the successful makeovers are collected in the new book, which is filled with practical how-to's and DIY projects.

"An ideal renovation is usually done just as it or just in the house. This way the hundreds of cost and time are not as heavy compared to a complete home renovation in one go," said Real Living editor in chief Rachelle Medina.

"Handyman is happy to join hands with Real Living for the publication of this book which we believe will be a big help for those who want to refurbish their homes at affordable costs. It is packed with a treasure trove of ideas for homeowners," said Stanley Go, general manager of Handyman.

Those who graced the launching included Willy Co, president of Handyman and Hewo Trading; Anthony Al-laray, commercial director of Black & Decker Power Tools; Herman Ng, president of MIG, distributor of Black & Decker Power Tools; Rachelle Medina; and Eunice Cate, publisher of The Real Living.

During the event, guests and shoppers were treated to free workshop sessions by seasoned designers Tilba Rivera Angeles and Yasmah Sanchez-Acob.

"Rooms by Room Makeovers" is available in Handyman stores, bookstores, newsstands and convenience stores for only P320 per copy. Check out Handyman branches at homeowner.ph, Fridaymart.com.

A TOAST. In the book "Rooms by Room Makeovers: 27 Befores and Afters and 101 Tips" is made by Willy Co, Handyman and Hewo Trading president and Stanley Hand Tools distributors; Dondi Cate, Real Living publisher; Nicole Bolatao, host; Stanley Co, Handyman general manager and Anthony Abaray, Black & Decker power tools commercial director

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR FUTURE

EXPERIENCE

Min

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Executive

MBA

QS WORLD MBA TOUR

MANILA 18th NOVEMBER

MEET THE WORLD'S TOP BUSINESS SCHOOLS

Thunderbird • Michigan Ross • INSEAD • IE • Warwick Lauson ...and many more

$1.4M OF EXCLUSIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

Register for free entry at: www.topmba.com

Vigilance is the price of a merry Christmas

AS EVERY FILIPINO KNOWS, THE CHRISTmas season in the Philippines begins on Sept. 1 when every radio disc jockey tries to be the first to play a Christmas carol.

Heartbreaking Filipinos take that as a signal to start making a list, checking it twice and preparing a budget for everything they consider essential in making the season merry. Of course, in many cases, a good time and woman, Sept. 1 also means they have to work harder to ensure they have a merry Christmas—at the expense of business, hard-working Filipinos.

The warning of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) about automated teller machines overdues and strikes is timely and something we should keep in mind, not just during the holiday season but every time we use these electronic devices.

According to the BSP, switching and carding are being used by con men and women to steal bank cards and personal identification numbers. The BSP in a press statement, said bilats would approach a person who had just used a machine and tell him/her a PIN or any paper bill was stuck in the ATM.

They would encourage the cardholder to check his/her balance to make sure he/she was not short-changed. Checking the balance would, of course, involve scrutinizing the card and entering the PIN.

The suspects would surreptitiously read the PIN, as it was being entered. Then they would create a fake version of the dropping some money and having the victim pick it up, to give them enough time to switch the client's ATM card with a fake one. The card, of course, would look exactly like the victim's own, so if he/she does not check the name on the card, he/she would go away thinking that nothing was amiss.

With his/her real ATM card and PIN, the con men and women would be able to withdraw from the client's account before the switch was discovered.

Surfing

The BSP said another ploy used by bilats was "shoulder surfing." They would stand close to the machine, pretending to be using his/her bank account, actually could read someone's PIN as it was being entered.

"If you feel that somebody is standing too close for you, don't be afraid to tell (him/her) to step back or let him/her use the machine before you do, the BSP said. And always remember to shield the ATM with your body and your hands as you enter the information required.

THE CONSUMER
Linda R. Bolalin

Bank clients, the BSP said, should also check a machine before using it, inspecting it for things that they would not usually see in similar devices. They should also not be cheated with anyone, even family members and close friends, the BSP added.

Cardless transactions

Some banks are already taking steps to make using the ATM safer for its clients, eliminating the need for cards and PINs using the user wants or across account information.

The Bank of the Philippine Islands, for instance, now allows cardless envelope deposit and bills payment. Clients can make deposits and pay bills through the ATM by using numbered BPI deposit envelopes. Simply by pressing the Enter key on the ATM pad, the client or his/her representative can complete the transaction.

This is convenient not just for the bank client himself/herself but the person sent to make deposits or payments, who can now skip the long queues inside the banks. BPI receipts would serve as proof of deposit/payment made.

"If somebody other than the bank client, (due) to some account information like balance, the machine will then ask for the PIN. Unless the client shares his/her PIN with somebody else, the person, other than the depositor, can only make deposits and/or payments.

Mike Bornales, head of BPI Express Teller department, said the new facility was meant to allow both BPI and non-BPI cardholders to use the ATM to make a deposit or payment, either in cash or check, minimizing the need for the above time-consuming Over the Counter transactions.

Send letters to The Consumer, c/o Joyce Servino, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1998 Chino Roces Ave. cor. Amorsolo and Tapia Sts., 1204 Makati City; fax 897-4793/94; or e-mail lbolalin@inquirer.com.ph.

INQUIRER BRITISH COUNCIL JobStreet.com THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Luxe furniture —made to order and multi-functional

BoConcept's look is metropolitan, utilitarian chic

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

WEERING AWAY FROM the homogenous, mass-produced look, the Scandinavian furniture store BoConcept encourages its customers to personalize their furniture in scale, line and texture.

"Throughout the world, people are moving from ornamental or classic to straight lines," said Viggo Mollerup, president and CEO of BoConcept. Mollerup visited the Philippines recently to introduce the brand's 2010 interiors at the BoConcept store in Bonifacio high-Street.

At BoConcept, owners can specify upholstery, arm rest, leg rest, table base, mattress or headboard and size. They can match their beds with various bases or headboards or eight finish.

The store's signature look is metropolitan but not slick. Although it's a Scandinavian company, its style comes closer to Italian with the lower height and wider proportions; reclined seating and the modular systems. The lines are neat and tailored but the edges are soft.

"Our design is more intense, broad. Scandinavian design stands for space lines, high quality and function, but it is more organic to function. It uses more solid wood and it's more traditional. It wouldn't have a black sofa with a higher back and a shorter seat. Our designs are more casual and relaxed," said Sidelinker.

Cost-efficient

Responding to the recession, Sidelinker said the company has made its products more affordable by being cost-efficient in its production. For 2010, it has also introduced brighter colors.

Confidence is reported in the Imola chair, which has undertonings of Arne Jacobsenen's organic and sculptural Egg Chair. Covered in plush yellow velour felt, the recliner is molded to adhere to the contours of the body and is supported by a solid metal frame. Mollerup added that the Imola costs 25 percent less than the iconic chair, but is more comfortable.

The Rock is a frameless take on the rocking chair. Upholstered in leather with retro fashion style, reminiscent of the Sunday barong, it is not a typical Scandinavian design, either.

As homes get smaller, multi-tasking and extendable furniture are in demand. "During the day, you can have an ottoman, the size a space saver. unfold it and you have a bed for visitors," he said.

Wood veneer dining tables covered a metal extension leaf that opens up to accommodate more people. Beds and coffee tables have hidden storage compartments. Some custom various seating units that can be added or subtracted as well-suited to be placed at the corner. Cushions enable the person to lounge in various positions.

Large consists of two different sofa that can work as a loveseat or be opened up as a long chaise. The Alpha sofa, which appeared in the James Bond film "Quantum of Solace," is attached to a swivel chair that can take on indoor life as an ottoman or a footstool.

Addressing the Filipino penchant for collecting, the storage furniture also provide many functions. Handle-free cabinets and drawers and shelves can be combined to create a segmented wall modules. Geometric wall dividers also serve as storage and table.

Minimal impact

Aside from the bulkiness and wood veneers, BoConcept's furniture has reduced the use of solvents and formaldehyde emissions.

"The lacquers and veneers don't emit ultraviolet rays. Even if the dog licks the furniture, it's not toxic," added Marlene Ong, BoConcept's branches holder.

Also, "the company deals with suppliers that have no child labor. It also uses materials only from factories that have programs for replanting for the trees they use in the veneers. It's all behind the style," said Ong.

Understanding that art also plays a vital role in adding soul into home, Mo Concept, the gallery on the upper floor of the BoConcept building, has been exhibiting conceptual artworks, most of them curated by Roberto Chabet.

Although BoConcept's mark-up is affordable luxury, the price points for the loud seating are not cheap. The dining chair fetches at P9,000 if the upholstery is leather and up to P25,000 if it's made of leather. The oak and aluminum table that extends from eight to 12 seats costs P99,000. A customized bed could cost P86,000.

Clients know they're paying for the science and technology behind the furniture, such as the density of the cushions and arm rests, the durable hardware and the best fabric for the user's comfort.

Comparing BoConcept to a car, Ong explained, "Some models would be a Mazda, Basic and sporty. The new collection is at par with a BMW because of the ergonomics and the looks."

The Levi's® Denim Drive
Give your old jeans and receive
₱500 off
on new Levi's® jeans.

A SEASON OF GIVING AND SAVING

Visit any participating Levi's® Store from Nov. 23 – Dec. 6, 2009. Trade in your old jeans and get ₱500 off* on every Levi's® jeans you purchase.

*Your item receipt will be given to the person you make it out through that item – an international development relief and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities worldwide.

LIFESTYLE

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

S-TA. LUCIA
ROYALE HOMES
Manila
(02) 584-1164
SM Dasmariñas
(046) 432-3307
Call or Text:
0922-8575078
www.royalehomes.ph

Live the Good Life at...
RIO DE ORO
RESIDENTIAL LOTS FOR AS LOW AS 10% Downpayment Payable in 3 years!
OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS
9:00 AM ONWARDS

Tony Mabesa directs 'Mary Stuart' for Dulaang UP

THE 6TH THEATER SEASON (SEE WHAT'S UP) presents "Mary Stuart" by Friedrich von Schiller, directed by CCP's founding artistic director Tony Mabesa.

"Mary Stuart" is a dramatization of a historical clash between two strong-willed women in history: Queen Elizabeth I of England and Queen Mary Stuart of Scotland.

The play will be presented in English and Filipino, with Filipino translation by Alice Pallugo. The shelter cast includes Ana Abad Santos, Tess Dumpit and Bernice Mickiles as Maria Stuart, Shalimar Ibarra-Carreiro and Stella Cañete as Queen Elizabeth; with Gay Gonzales, Magda Ferrer, Flor Salanga, Filoy Sicangco, Richard Cannan, Ria Aquino, Jaques Borlaza, Allan Valdez, Ryan Capinding, Sheyre Buencinto, Gee Antalan, Fiano Deza, Evert Gamboloma, Erik-Isaia Cruz, Paraben Uy, JJ Ignacio, Brian Ardis, Josh Devocaicia and Zamuhah Mangkud.

"Mary Stuart" will run Nov. 19-Dec. 6, every Wednesday to Friday at 7 p.m., and every weekend at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. with Saturdays at 7 p.m. Call 0906-3263632 or the Dulaang UP Office at 9261348, 887 8000 local 3489 or 4307840.

Garden show lectures

The Environmental Flower and Garden Show at Quezon City Memorial Circle, Quezon City will hold lectures on Nov. 21-30, 2-5 p.m. Plants and other garden items will be raffled off. On Nov. 21, the lectures tackle Basic Care of Succulents and Cacti and Cacti Propagation of Caudiciforms; Nov. 22: Cacti and Perpagation of Hoyas; Indoor Landscaping for Good Health; Nov. 23: Money-Making Opportunities in Farming; Organic Farming; Nov. 24, How to Combat Dengue out of Weeds; Producing Mutant Plants using Gamma Irradiation; Nov. 25, Floral Arrangements for all Occasions; Collection and Identification of Medicinal Plants; Nov. 26, Zero Waste Management; Wheat Grass.

Targhal theater fest

The National Committee on Dramatic Arts of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Alkasma, Inc. and Collective Arts of Students and Theaters of the University of Makati present the 4th Targhal, National University Theater Festival on Feb. 1-5, 2010. Deadline for application for performance grants is on Nov. 23. Call 627-2182/ 8826-1181/8841, e-mail targhal2010mm@yahoo.com

Sun promo extended

Sun Cellular's Unlimited Plan Promo is extended until Nov. 30. The deal offers 24/7 call and text unlimited subscribers the chance to get free unlimited calls and texts. For details, call 365-8000 or 250 from a Sun mobile phone.

McHappy Day
Fun Run

Come join the fun on November 30, 2009 at McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

McHappy Day, formerly known as World Children's Day, is a global fund raising effort to support children's causes. Here in the Philippines, it is celebrated in support of McDonald's Bright Minds Read – a beginner's reading program by Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) for Grade 1 public school children. Partners include the Department of Education, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and McDonald's very own day care center, Bahay Bulilit. Through this year's McHappy Day Fun Run, we hope to raise funds to support RMHC's programs.

HERE'S HOW TO JOIN:
1. Registration is from November 9 to 20, 2009.
2. Application forms are available in selected McDonald's outlets in Metro Manila and through our website: www.mcdonalds.com.ph

List of selected McDonald's outlets:
LAS PIÑAS: Alabang Town Center, Tiendesitas, Molino, Zapote, Bacoor
MANILA: Ayala Triangle, Ayala Fairview, P. Campa, Pedro Gil, Quirino, Sta. Cruz Church, Taft Libertad, U.N. Ave., UST Parking Deck
MUNTINLUPA: Muntinlupa City-Hall
PARAÑAQUE: Airport Road, Aurus Parkway
PASAY: EDSA Taft Rotonda
PASIG: Ortigas, Ugong
QUEZON CITY: EDSA Pansy, Welcome, Welcome Rotonda, Project 8, Project 4, Commonwealth Ave., U.P., Diliman, Visayas Ave.
TAGUIG: McKinley Hill, Fairview Terraces

3. Fill out the Application Form and sign the Waiver of Liability.
4. Pay the Registration Fee of P350 (regardless of the race category) upon submission of accomplished Application Form to any participating McDonald's outlet in Metro Manila.
5. Registration Fee includes the McHappy Day Fun Run Race Kit:
• 1 Race Bib • Reminders • Runner Map • Mesh Sack*
*Can only be used at the event venue after the race and not in any McDonald's store.
6. Incomplete Application Forms and/or unsigned Waivers of Liability will not be accepted or considered registered to participate in the race. McDonald's reserves the right to prevent a participant from actually participating in the race as it may deem necessary.
7. Participants below 18 years old must have their Application Forms and Waivers of Liability signed by their parents/guardian.
8. McHappy Day Fun Run details: November 30, 2009, assembly time of 4:00 AM, at McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. McDonald's reserves the right to change the date and time of the race in case of torrurous events.
9. Race start: • 10K: 5:00 AM • 5K: 5:00 AM • 3K: 5:05 AM
10. Participants who are late at the gun start forfeit their chance to win but may still participate in the run.
11. Registration Fee is not refundable.
12. There will be a total of 18 winners. Prizes will be awarded to the winners immediately after the McHappy Day Fun Run.

DISTANCE	TITLE	1st PLACE	2nd PLACE	3rd PLACE
3K	Male	3,000 Peso Cash	2,000 Peso Cash	1,000 Peso Cash
	Female			
5K	Male			
	Female			
10K	Male			
	Female			

13. In the event of a tie between two runners, both participants will receive a prize.

Double your Asia Miles to 18 Cities.
Fly with Cathay Pacific and make every trip twice as rewarding! From now to 15 December 2009, you'll earn Double Asia Miles every time you fly to Australia, New Zealand, Europe, South Africa, Canada and the USA. What's more, new members who join Asia Miles will receive an additional 1,000 Bonus Asia Miles during the promotion period. For more information, visit www.cathaypacific.ph or contact your travel agent.
CATHAY PACIFIC

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

The Grand Midori Makati is designed with a picturesque yet efficient Ayurveda Spa for your convenience. Rejuvenate yourself in

THE GRAND Midori MAKATI

visit www.thegrandmidorimakati.com.ph

CALL 830-0000

Interbank

Less hassle with new 'No Frost' refrigerators

Story on page E2

Connect to *Everything* exciting from home. *Easily.*

Explore a resort-style playground through landscaped walkways.

At Manhattan Heights, stroll your way to fun times. A network of landscaped walkways at the fourth level links your home's very own leisure area to the rest of Manhattan Garden City. So you enjoy a scenic walk to the play decks of the other residential phases.

Reach the Araneta Center via a transfer pavilion.

Go from home to the Araneta Center with utmost ease. Enjoy exclusive use of a grand transfer pavilion with a hotel-style lobby, grand staircase and five passenger elevators. Access the third level where a footbridge leads to the Gateway Mall, Promenade, uniquely walk at the Big Dome, Ayala's and Farmers Plaza. Or go to the offices of the Araneta Center Cyberpark and Aurora Tower.

Get to the trains quickly through an elevated garden walkway.

Enjoy the luxury of getting around and getting ahead. An exclusive elevated garden walkway leads you straight to the LRT-2 and the MRT-3, letting you reach the rest of the metro quickly and conveniently.

MANHATTAN HEIGHTS

at Manhattan Garden City
Araneta Center

STANDOUT COMMUNITY FEATURES:

- In-four tower community along San Francisco Avenue at the Araneta Center
- Towers accessed address with a direct connection to the LRT-2 and MRT-3 trains and a grand transfer pavilion
- Fourth-level play deck with a swimming pool complex, fitness center, spa and meditation gardens, a massage deck, yoga and tai chi work, outdoor spa, lanai bars, giant lawns, a gazebo, reading nook, picnic areas, amphitheater, tree-lined jogging paths, landscaped gardens with resting areas, a working clock with wall brackets—each and a day care center
- Retail establishments on the ground floor
- Minutes away from the Araneta Center's business and leisure establishments

Visit our SHOWROOMS at:
3rd Level Gateway Mall, Araneta Center •
3rd Level Main Mall, North Wing/Atrium, SM Mall of Asia • Lower Ground Floor, SM San Lazaro, Manila

For more details, call 810-3333 or 913-0234 now

Araneta Center

How to refurbish an 'okay' space

BETH FERRIMAN HODGE usually gets positive impressions even before the makeover. But there was still something about the house that needed fixing; even Beth herself couldn't. Figure it out. So how does one refurbish an already "okay" space?

Ever since she got a two-bedroom bungalow from her parents, Beth has spent a considerable amount of time designing and redesigning the living room where she had a small work area, knee chair, TV and reupholstering lounge chair and sofa. But the lowly wicker/raining rounds in her head, she decided to give the area a "lift" as well.

But when Beth looked at the area, she realized something. "Somehow, the pieces did not seem to fit no matter what I did," she sighed. She realized she needed help ... and fast.

Real Living and Robinsons appliances came to the rescue.

"The planner was okay as it was. It was nicely well-kept and classic-love. The flowers even beautiful," interior designer Ilet Villanueva said. "However, the beautiful fixtures and furniture were not well put together. Rearranging was what I had in mind," she added. So Ilet worked on the space, marrying hers and Jennifer's.

She considered Beth's flow of daily to-dos, as the home-office would expand. So did the love seat (which was reupholstered into a beige hue to blend with the linens), wooden cabinet and floor tiles. Her repainting was involved, as the white walls were perfect.

Curtains were changed from dull yellow and white to beige with a nature-inspired design. A geometric rug, ottomans, large mustard-colored vases, ceramic pieces and cushion pillows all blended beautifully with the color scheme.

The once gloomy living room is now cozier and more spacious. And to finish off the look, Robinsons appliances grac Beth a 20-inch LCD TV with a home theater system and DVD player atop a hanging shelf.

"I used to stay inside the room to watch TV because I didn't like how my living room looked like. Now I can spend the whole day in here!" Beth exclaimed.

Beth, who loves the outdoors, prefers entertaining friends in her home—a small space which was supposed to be a garage. With the recent makeover, the latter became the ideal place to hang out in. It now has new driftwood-type stools and benches with green and orange accents draped on top. There's a stylish wooden counter hanging from the orange-and-white fabric covering the hard ceiling, giving room for natural skylight. All these improvements stand out amidst the lush green garden background.

"I think I can even put up a small coffee shop here!" Beth said.

Beth knows the importance of making her home look good all the time: "It is where your heart is and if the heart is not well, it needs a doctor to be able to function properly."

She has warned this to happen for so long, and thanks to Real Living and Robinsons Appliances, now she said, she "can function properly!"

THE LANAI, before the makeover

THE LANAI, after the makeover

BETH Ferriman and daughter Carmela, enjoying an afternoon with their new LCD TV, DVD and home theater set from Robinsons Appliances

UV Chilled Room

FRESHER food with 'No Frost' technology

COLLIPER.com

Less hassle with new 'No Frost' refrigerators

SAMSUNG'S NEW LINE OF "No Frost" refrigerators promises to make defrosting a thing of the past.

Conventional direct cooling models require unnecessary time and effort for regular defrosting. Samsung's new refrigerators, on the other hand, provide a more even temperature throughout the cabinet and rapid temperature recovery after the door has been opened to fend away broken fingers.

A Samsung No Frost refrigerator model, the RT54GBPN, also features the Cool Boosters System, which cools evenly with a blanket of cold air that descends from the top, unlike conventional models where cold air enters the refrigerator compartment from the rear. Three-dimensional cooling is assisted with the addition of Cool Boosters on the sides to ensure food stays optimally chilled.

'Curtain system,' 'Evergreen Zone'—learn the technology

Another Samsung No Frost model, the RT37GBS, has the Evergreen Zone. Grown expected to its specially installed photosynthetic light bulbs that have shown to increase their vitamin C content, enhancing the nutritional value of vegetables.

The UV Chilled Room in the RT37GBS keeps the freshness of fish, meat and deli foods at a constant, non-fluctuating temperature. This safeguards fresh food from spoiling while preserving their original flavor. Use of ultraviolet lamps in the UV Chilled Room also helps prevent the spread of bacteria.

Samsung No Frost refrigerators are available at all leading appliances outlets.

Design stores share blessings with typhoon victims

By Anna R. Jordan's

HOME FURNITURE AND accessories will be sold at discounted prices and a good percentage of the proceeds will go to the outreach program for victims of "Ondoy" and "Pepeng."

While the Lifi Design Plaza ends year festivities in store merchandise in a grand sale before December, this year it decided to have a relief program for typhoon victims.

Located at 2/F Shoemart Centris II, Donnelly Ripplod, Bel-Air, Makati, the Lifi Design Plaza is holding "Share" on Nov. 19, with weekends at 6 p.m. The bulk of design showrooms and art galleries, "Share" will be held by Kink, Dolby Dots Furniture and Accessories (DMC) and The Room Upstairs.

Inside this nondescript building are distinctive and rare collectibles. "Not many people know there are unique and wonderful finds inside this building. Some don't even know there's a store tucked behind those doors. Despite that, Lifi Design Plaza has been growing steadily since it opened in 2004," said Jen Kink, owner and designer of Kink.

Fourth expansion

Kink is now on its fourth expansion. From 22 sq m in 2006, it will reopen its doors in a spacious 220-sq m showroom. When it only proves, he said, that while there may be less foot traffic at Lifi Design Plaza compared to a mall, people drop by with the sole purpose of buying furniture pieces, artworks and collectibles.

"Each tenant has a different design concept. The clients here are those you will never find in other stores. That has always been our edge. From 20 shops and four art galleries, we now have more than 50," said Yen Lu, president and owner of Lifi Design Plaza.

STYLISH seating from Driftwood Lifi showrooms

NARIGHI tea light holders from Asia

DISTINCTIVE coffee tables

CLASSIC cabinet for jewelry by The Room Upstairs

KOMODO teakwood bistab dining chair

GLASS bowl from Spain

COUNTRY STYLE bench for two upholstered with cowhide by The Room Upstairs

Throughout, Lifi Design Plaza welcomes Tribes Bay Living, Rimondo Teak Furniture, Living Space Home Furnishing, Binder Design, OMO Furniture and Accessories and Steve Annals of Bali.

Its accommodating store shop-pers, Lifi Design Plaza will be open for the first time on five consecutive Sundays: Nov. 20, 27 and Dec. 4, 11 and 20, from 11 noon to 6 p.m.

Goods of teak, wooden coat rack and miniature wrought iron rug with candleholder make up the functional lifestyle showroom of Home Design. OMO has contemporary designs and modern accessories that have been exported to Europe, US, Australia, South America, Asia and the Middle East.

Indoor inspirations found in Rimondo Teak Furniture, with more than 200 designs on teak, wood and exotic hardwoods natural flooring, decking, doors and wall panels. At Tribes Bay Living, handcrafted chairs, tables, cabinets and lamps in traditional woodwork can be found.

Anna R. Jordan, 893-1772, ext. 2000, annajordan@yahoo.com; e-mail P1_lyfe@yahoo.com

Do-it-yourself

Ishi Anton Barrera and Marina Lopa

Harvest-theme table centerpiece

THANKSGIVING OR HARVEST FESTIVAL. It is celebrated to give thanks for the bountiful harvest, much like our own Pahiyas festival. As a western tradition, it is a time to express gratitude, a time of abundant meals with family and friends.

For dinner's to be hosted on this day, spruce up table with harvest theme. Use autumn colors (orange, vermilion, persimmon) in table linens.

Create a table centerpiece by grouping vegetables or spices in container (bell peppers, cinnamon barks, carrots, radishes, eggplant, mahogany, garlic and cocoa bulbs are ideal).

We found these unusual ornamental vegetables from Rustan's Supermarket and used them as place card holders. Use colored board paper for the place cards (calling card size is ideal). Punch a hole in the upper corner.

Use grass or raffia to attach the place card by looping it through the punched hole in the board paper and tying it around the ornamental vegetable.

D.I.Y.

USE autumn colors like orange, vermilion, persimmon.

Carolina Garcia literary confab opens today at UST

THE CONFERENCE, "VISIONS and Articulations: The Carolina G. Garcia Centennial Conference on the Teaching of Literature," opens today and runs until Friday at the Tanghalang Teresita Gimzon of the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School.

Organized by the UST Department of Humanities, UST Literary Society, UST Graduate School, UST Society of Arts and Letters, and UST Sanduguan, the conference and 2007 UST-SHS 0009-9229(2007) pays tribute to the late well-loved literature professor Carolina G. Garcia, who was the mentor of several generations of writers and teachers, including National Artists.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts is supporting the conference.

Keynote speaker is writer/teacher Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, vice president of the University of the Philippines and a former student of Garcia.

A roundtable discussion remembering Garcia as a "Teacher's Teacher" will feature Cirilo Sanchez, Florentino Hornedo, Milagros Tiodayao, and Ophelia Strudwick, also Garcia's former students at UST.

Posh amenities abound at Manhattan Heights

Manhattan Garden City is the first and only transit-oriented development that is connected to the LRT1 and MRT3 lines. The whole metro is just down.

More than 20 varied amenities, including this lap pool amidst vibrant tropical landscaping, are planned for Manhattan Heights.

Manhattan Heights is the core development of Manhattan Garden City, the bestselling joint venture project of Megaworld and the Andrews Group.

Relaxing at home is great, but what if you were to buy some groceries on the way home, or walk to go for a refreshing swim on a balmy afternoon? Love working where getting into your car again or having to commute is always tiring. Wouldn't it be great if you could live in a place where everything you need is only a few steps away? If your answer is yes, then Manhattan Heights is the well-located townhome that you are looking for.

This is very exciting! Manhattan Heights, the first phase of Manhattan Garden City. With the number and diversity of amenities on hand, residents don't even have to leave the premises to enjoy the weekend. They can find some dining here, then find dining to those downtown," noted Megaworld Central Properties Inc. President Antonio Chanrai said.

"Your neighborly will enjoy hours of relaxation and recreation at the lavish two-hectare park, where most of the townhomes are located. This area also connects all the towers in Manhattan Heights, and thanks to the scenery and lack of much needed hustle," he added.

Outdoor amenities include two-lane jogging paths, a swimming pool, and an outdoor spa. A countercurrent area and meditation area are for those who wish to practice yoga. An exercise lab, or simply the cardio trainer for your convenience and want to catch up on their reading, a comfortable sitting area and a cyber station are provided as well.

A play zone for children, a reflexology path and landscaped gardens also abound. The indoor amenities can be found in Towers Rome 2. These include a gym for those who wish to do some resistance training and aerobics, as well as a spa and sauna. If residents need to catch up with some work, meeting rooms and function rooms answer their business needs. In addition to these, a mini-convenience store/deli cafe and kiosk are also planned to open for dine.

The four top-most levels of each tower are known as the Sky Garden floors, and they have direct access to "sky gardens" – lush, tiered, resident-settings with benches, palm trees and colorful flowers. Here, residents can enjoy fresh air and relaxing while reading a book, or simply admiring the lovely view from the sky gardens provide. At the ground level of the second tower, one can find retail outlets, allowing ensuring a fun yet efficient lifestyle.

Since Manhattan Garden City is a transit-oriented development, Manhattan Heights residents have direct access to the MRT-3 and LRT-1 lines via elevated garden walkways. The exclusive network of walkways also leads to the Gateway Mall and Farmers Collection. The development is less than 20 minutes away from the Makati CBD, 10 minutes away from Mandaluyong, and less than 10 minutes away from the new Ayala Malls.

For more information on Manhattan Heights, please call 910-2000 or visit the Manhattan Garden City showroom at the 3rd level of Gateway Mall.

Live Your Christmas Dreams with a Winter Wonderland only at Hong Kong Disneyland!

Winter Wonderland – Experience Christmas unlike any other, only here at Hong Kong Disneyland Sparkling Christmas

This year, from Nov 28, 2009 to Jan 3, 2010, you and your loved ones will get the chance to live your Christmas dream as Hong Kong Disneyland's Sparkling Christmas transforms the entire resort into a Winter Wonderland. This is sure to set your hearts aglow, only at the one place where dreams come true: Hong Kong Disneyland!

IT'S A SMALL WORLD CHRISTMAS

It's a whole new Christmas celebration at "It's A Small World." Capture unforgettable, Christmas memories with six giant winter scene pop-up cards. You'll delight in finding all 40 characters along the way.

It's a Small World Christmas – Be a part of this Christmas scene and experience a warm Winter Wonderland celebration

Light up Winter – Make your visit to a brilliant Disney-lit winter wonder

Character Feast – Meet Team D! pioneer to experience a wide way of seeing the dazzling lights and fantastic show.

LIGHTS OF WINTER

When night begins to fall, the night is transformed with the all new Lights of Water. From the candlelight to the Sparkling Castle Lights – all set as perfect harmony to inspiring holiday music. See the world through a Hologram Viewer and view magic in the making!

MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS

Stroll down Main Street U.S.A.® and immerse yourself in a picturesque Christmas setting gentle snowflakes falling softly around you. Meet Santa, and enjoy a cup of hot cocoa as you listen to carollers.

Main Street Christmas – Be absolutely part the atmosphere as a Christmas carol against the ice cream

Late to meet Christmas Parade – The era of Christmas is expected to a merry parade. Disney style!

"LET IT SNOW" CHRISTMAS PARADE

Join in the merriment as hundreds of dancers perform a glittering parade. Get ready for unexpected goodies as we have everything snow a forecasted throughout the show!

AWARD-WINNING HOTELS

From decorated lobbies to splendid Christmas treats and live bands playing traditional carols, the two award-winning hotels in Hong Kong Disneyland Resort are all decked to heighten the Yuletide mood.

Disney's Hollywood Hotel – Awarded Best in Service at Disneyland, making it a perfect for your family to stay in.

Christmas Treats – This Christmas, there are more goodies on the your treats (and waistline) table.

CHRISTMAS TREATS

Share in the joys of the season with heartwarming traditional yuletide deliciousness, whether you're settling down for a feast with the family or snacking on-the-go with friends.

MEMORABLE WINTER'S GIFTS

You'll never run out of great gift ideas in Hong Kong Disneyland Resort. There's a smashing time for everyone. Choose from toys to clothing, stationery, souvenirs and homeware from all your favorite Disney collections.

Memorable Winter's Gifts – This winter your favorite Disney experience is a reminder.

For more information, please visit www.hongkongdisneyland.com

©Disney

Hong Kong Disneyland, Cathay Pacific and Dragonair present

BUY 2 GET 1 FREE* VACATION PACKAGES From US$356 per person**

Your "BUY 2 GET 1 FREE" Vacation Package includes:

- Return economy class airfare to Hong Kong
- Hotel accommodation
- Hong Kong Disneyland Park admission ticket
- Resort credit (valid 3 nights)
- Special treat – exclusive Disney gift

Guests staying at Hong Kong Disneyland Resort themed hotels also enjoy:

- Late check-out
- "Rise and Play by 1 Hour" offer
- Disney Magical Experience
- Park and coupon for guests of Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel only

Book now through Cathay Pacific Reservations office at (852)737-0888, Dragonair Reservations office at (852)737-0111 or contact your travel agent for more details!

LIFESTYLE

Globe All You Can.

Globe

SUPER DUO* Walang Metro!

Unlimited calls sa landlines at Globe/TM/Tattoo cel nationwide

Text SUPERDUO to 8888

Prepaid P35/day

Postpaid P499/month

Intro price for a limited time only.

www.globe.com.ph/allyoucan

*Another rate applies when the same number is called. For landline numbers in NCR, Cebu, Batangas, Davao and Bulacan (Postpaid). For GTI-MCO Permit No. 0402, Series of 2009. Promo runs until January 15, 2010.

Homespun Nativity sets

THE HOLY Family dressed in exquisite gold and burgundy satin

THE NATIVITY SET OR BELEN, along with the dazzling lanterns or parol, symbolizes Christmas in many Filipino homes. Our Spanish heritage was influential in bringing about the popularity of Nativity sets in holiday decor—a hallmark of our Catholic faith and the fact that these, rather than Christmas trees, are present in most Spanish homes.

Reborn Filipino, the place for all things Filipino, has a collection of homespun Nativity sets that combine memories of traditional Filipino Christmases with exquisite modern craftsmanship.

These beautifully detailed sets come in a variety of vignettes with crowns silver and

HOMESPUN 11

TEAK WOOD 373-97-97

D.B.T. Condominium 88 West Avenue, Quezon City Trunkline: 373-97-97

Please see our ad under "FURNITURE" in the Yellow Pages

ENJOY THE EXQUISITE TEXTURE AND EXTRAORDINARY FLAVOR OF WAGYU STEAKS - BROUGHT OUT ONLY BY THE WORLD FAMOUS VOLCANIC HOT ROCKS.

Only at . . .

HOUSE OF Wagyu Stone Grill

5/F The Podium
ADB Ave., Mandaluyong

G/F Eastwood Mall
Libis, Q.C.

Collect

Open Masayang Pasko mula sa Coca-Cola

For questions text "Coke help" to 2855

Christmas Happy Plate

Redemption Centers:

GARFIELD

A LIFAH

PUGAD BABOY

DICK TRACY

LOVEHKOTS

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY

BABY BLUES

RUDOW

BEH

ATOMIC AND VISSOY

KUDO MACHINE

HOROSCOPE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
For solving tips see www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

Homespun Nativity sets

From page F1

Nativities other backgrounds, as well as ethereal settings. The Holy Family is dressed in satin robes embellished with beads, embroidery and trimmings.

Bring a homespun Christmas to your home with these Nativity sets and other decor from Bellarie Filipino outlets at selected SM Department Stores and SM Makati, SM Megamall, The Block at SM City North Edsa, SM Mall of Asia and SM City Cebu.

THIS golden nativity depicts a well-sculpted Mary, the infant Jesus and a winged angel.

HANDICRAFTED tabletop decor of the Holy Family in a manger

BRING joy to your home with these rustic 17" figures of the Three Wise Men.

CELEBRATE the season with Nativity sets from Kultura Filipina.

STUDSTRUCK

Grooming can be fun in, super tatty when studs make your style bolder than bossy.

LOVE & LUSTER

What better way of wearing leather than by dressing in your velour?

THE SHIMMY

Fine embellishments add radiance in these fashionable pieces.

Fine Detailing

Rock new top stories with the season's finest details — embodying a bolder look for you. Wearable runway style, yours by Encore & Studio.

THE BEACON ACADEMY

Admissions open for Grades 9 – 10
SY 2010-2011

The Beacon Academy is an independent, non-profit, co-educational school modeled upon the best international educational practice. The Academy provides a four-year college preparatory program to children of all nationalities and is committed to providing a global education of the highest quality, rooted in an understanding of Filipino culture and traditions.

The near 5-hectare campus is located in Binan, Laguna, a 45-minute drive from Makati.

The Beacon Academy is a candidate school for the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) and the IB Diploma Programme (DP), which are recognized by the Department of Education. The IB Diploma is a rigorous, academically challenging course of study recognized by colleges and universities around the world.

Applications for enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year are now being accepted for grades 9 and 10.

Parents interested in seeking enrollment for their children may contact the school at headmaster@beaconschool.ph to arrange an appointment, and they should visit our website at www.beaconacademy.ph to access additional information and download application forms.

School address: The Beacon School, PCPD Building, 2332 Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Taguig, Metro Manila

Phone: (632) 815-0946; (632) 843-0340
Fax: (632) 813-0946; (632) 843-0340

E-mail: admissions@beaconschool.ph, headmaster@beaconschool.ph

Website: www.beaconacademy.ph

Car insurance is one big cost item, is there an option?

Call now! 813-7465

Yes! Enjoy more car insurance benefits, pay a low premium with flexible payment terms.

Get E-Gas FREE!

PinkWheels
Car Insurance for Women
www.pinkwheels.com.ph

All grown up

Let her play dress up like a little lady in her very own cute wedges

Glitter girl

SM Department Store let's your little one sparkle and shine this holiday season with Sugar Kids fit only for your pretty princess

Style darling

Make her walk around in style with embellished flat sandals

Mini fashionista

Keep your tot one step ahead in fashion with gladiator sandals

Editor Bronie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

Mobile Alert: Text INQ ENTERTAINMENT to 4431 | Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment | E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Gina: I stand by my post

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

GINA ALAJAR YESTERDAY spoke about the controversy stirred up by a comment on her Facebook account on the alleged romance between Manny Pacquiao and Jinkee Sarella.

The actress-Gina makes used the Facebook status that she swallowed the affair. What she wrote: "If I am Jinkee Pacquiao, I will not give up. Manny... Kibin... is not at all worth it!"

On Sunday, Gina told the inquirer by phone that she was standing by her words: "It's my page and everyone has the right to express his or her own opinion in his or her site. I was just stating my sentiments on an issue that's being discussed in the four-corners of showbiz... It was just unsolicited advice from movie fellow."

Not public

Her Facebook account, she said, can be accessed only by friends and wasn't meant for public viewing.

She would like to make one thing very clear: "I am not in any way involved in their life or movie ("Walpakisan") and I have no intention of riding on their publicity campaign. That will

Spot the changes

LOOKS LIKE AN EXTREME makeover. TimeTube sensation Susan Boyle is shown (far left) as an ugly duckling during her "Britain's Got Talent" stint earlier this year... and then more recently in the September issue of Harper's Bazaar magazine, where a dazzling swan! Let's see: hair, check... brows, check... lips and fashion sense... check it out for yourself, ex-kon. Now na...

visit: www.smcinema.com

SM CINEMA

EVENTS

NEW MOON SLEEPOVER SHOW
SM CITY PAMPANGA
Nov 19 | Mon | 1pm | Event Center
SM CITY TARLAC
Nov 20 | Tue | 1pm | Event Center
NEW MOON BOOZE & FASHION WITH SLAPSHOCK
SM CITY SAN JOSE
Nov 20 | Fri | 10pm | Grand Atrium, Bldg. A
CAPTURING THE NEW MOON: THE TWILIGHT SAGA FAN ART CONTEST
SM CITY BACOLOD
Nov. 1 to 15 | Atrium Bldg. B
SM CITY SUBIC
Nov. 1 to 15 | Central Lobby
Visit www.smsupermalls.com for more details
Get a chance to collect limited edition NEW MOON PENDELTA ITEMS during these events
IN SM CINEMAS, NOVEMBER 20

metro manila

IMAX

DIGITAL CLUB 2012

FORUM 2012

SM MOA
SM MALL OF ASIA
SM MEGAMALL
SM CITY MANILA
SM FAIRVIEW
SM CITY SAN LAZARO
SM CITY BIÑAN
SM CITY STA. ROSA
SM CITY BACOOR
SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
SM CITY BICUTAN
VALENZUELA

luzon

SM CITY PAMPANGA
SM CITY LIPA
SM CITY LUCENA
SM CITY SUBIC
SM CITY CABANATUAN
SM CITY BAGUIO
SM CITY STA. ROSA
SM CITY MARILAO
SM CITY TARLAC
SM CITY DAGUPAN
SM CITY URDANETA
SM CITY BATANGAS
NAGA
ROSALES
BALIWAG

visayas + mindanao

SM CITY BACOLOD
SM CITY ILOILO
SM CITY CEBU
SM CITY MANDAUE
SM CITY DAVAO

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

CINEMA ACCESS: 395-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 2012
2 ALL ABOUT STEVE
3 ASTROBOY / 2012
4 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / 2012
5 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
6 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT / 2012
7 I LOVE DREAM GUYZ / HELLPHONE
8 ANG PANDAIGDAIGDIG KAY TE
9 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
10 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN

ERMITA

1 ALL ABOUT STEVE
2 ASTROBOY / 2012
3 HELLPHONE / 2012
4 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
5 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
6 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
7 PATIENT X / 2012

METRO EAST

1 ASTROBOY
2 PATIENT X
3 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
4 JENNIFER'S BODY / 2012
5 ALL ABOUT STEVE / 2012
6 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
7 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / 2012
8 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT

NOVALICHES

1 ALL ABOUT STEVE / 2012
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
3 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
4 PATIENT X

PIONEER

1 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
2 ALL ABOUT STEVE / 2012
3 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
4 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN / 2012

STA. ROSA

1 PATIENT X / 2012
2 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
3 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
4 ALL ABOUT STEVE

LIPA

1 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
2 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
3 HALLOWEEN 2 / 2012
4 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

DASMARIÑAS

1 PATIENT X
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
3 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
4 SORORITY ROW / 2012

IMUS

1 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
2 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN / 2012
3 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
4 PATIENT X

STARMILLS

1 PATIENT X
2 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT / 2012
3 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
4 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
5 SORORITY ROW / 2012
6 THE FINAL DESTINATION

ANGELES

1 PATIENT X / 2012
2 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
3 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
4 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

TACLOBAN

1 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
3 THE ECHO / 2012

BACOLOD

1 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
3 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / 2012
4 HALLOWEEN 2
5 FAME / 2012
6 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN

ILOILO

1 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT / 2012
2 ASTROBOY
3 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
4 HALLOWEEN 2
5 THE CARRIER
6 RED CLIFF

GEN. SANTOS (NOW OPEN!)

1 MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
3 THE ECHO / 2012
4 PANDORUM

Exclusive to Citi Cardholders: Watch these blockbuster movies, FREE*!

Get 1 free movie pass for a minimum single-receipt purchase of P1,500 with your Citi Card anywhere

PROMO EXTENDED until NOVEMBER 30, 2009

*See flyers or visit www.citibank.com for details.

moviewoRLD

citi

OPENING THIS WEEK

Horror-drama wins big in Cinema One

Latak

Directed by Joanne Mendi; stars Mon Confiy, Mercedes Cabral, Chanel Latorre, Pia Wilhelm, Ricky Mamawin, Boy Villanueva and Tia Pinili

The discovery of the cruel betrayal instigated by his lover and friends leads a young drifter to self-destruction. He is confronted by haunting hallucinations and nightmarish memories. He must fight for his survival in the battle for inner demons, as well as mysterious female ghosts. From the same filmmaker behind "Mga Pusong Ligaw," "When in Clay Blue Lahat" and "Mina," the film aims to spiral by true life events. Exclusively in Indie Sinhimasan.

MERCEDES Cabral

The Twilight Saga: New Moon

Directed by Chris Weitz; stars Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner, Dakota Fanning, Bronson Pelletier and Graham Greene

In the sequel to Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight," vampire (Pattinson) leaves girl (Stewart) because of the danger he poses to her. Girl becomes an adrenaline junkie and gets friendly with werewolves, ancestral enemies of vampires. She soon finds her loyalties tested as she's torn between two hunky monsters. Director Weitz says he was "entranced by Twilight" and insists he "respects and responds" to the feelings of fans. "My job is to live up to that devotion." Opens on today.

By Marinell R. Cruz

THE ROLE OF A RELIGIOUS fanatic who is also suspected of being an assassin is the heroine division. Rich. "Wanted: Border" won for Rosanna Roces the Best Actress trophy in the 2009 Cinema One Originals Digital Film Festival awards ceremony on Sunday night at The Delphi Theater of the ABS-CBN compound in Quezon City.

Sweep

It was actually a sweep for "Wanted: Border" which snagged six other awards: Best Screenplay (tie) a cash prize of P200,000); Best Director and Best Screenplay for Ray Gibraltar; Best Cinematography for Oji Sagmoo; Best Music for Erwin Romulo and Mark Lopez; and Best Production Design for Al Alarcon, Winston Lazaro and Alan Ubaldo.

Gibraltar, who is based in Cotabato, said, recalled the making of his film. "Every day for four years I passed a misspelled sign that said 'Wanted. Border' it was on the lamppost in front of the apartment I was renting. In 2005, when I went to investigate, I was stunned to see from the last parcel life in Manila. I ended up creating some bizarre characters. This film is a sort of memento for me. All the characters are common

BEST Actress Rosanna Roces

people struggling to survive."

Gibraltar dedicated his prize-grossing Israeli Jaguelles said, "Wanted: Border" is the only experimental feature in the lineup. The other nominees were Best Supporting Actress for her role as a mother with a fixation toward her drunkard neighbor in "Si Boy Negro, Si Maestro at ang Aswang si Nidoy." The film also won Best Supporting Actor for Jun Hurley Hidalgo.

Hidalgo's Campos won Best Actor for playing Digna, a lesbian boyfriend with a "mix-related problem" in Ang Jason's "Mestizo & Mistress."

"Baka bukas," a mystery-fantasy film that follows the story of two supposed brothers, brought home the Best Sound award for Black Lawrin.

The awards program was hosted by Shaki Pascual and Eugene Domingo.

A first for Ilio

Ilio Lucero won her first acting award after more than three decades in show biz. She was named Best Supporting Actress for her role as a mother with a fixation toward her drunkard neighbor in "Si Boy Negro, Si Maestro at ang Aswang si Nidoy." The film also won Best Supporting Actor for Jun Hurley Hidalgo.

The awards program was hosted by Shaki Pascual and Eugene Domingo.

Gina: I stand by my post

From page G1

"not do me any good."

Gina explained why she was moved to write the entry because, "Maestro Ito is a Pinoy hero. He has brought so much pride and honor to our country. He should be spared from such intrigues."

According to the ABS-CBN talk show "The Buzz," Gina and Erlinda were previously linked in cheesy infomercials. Erlinda was said to be one of the causes of the breakup of Gina's marriage to actor Michael de Mesa.

According to "The Buzz," Erlinda denied her involvement with Michael. Gina declined to comment on this aspect, simply saying: "I have my ill feelings."

She would rather focus on her job as emcee on the DMX 7 reality show "Teamstruck" and as actress on the same network's mini-series, "Sisi: Prinsesa Tarimbido Queens."

On both shows, she's working with her son Geoff Eigenmann's newest partner Carla Abellana. "She's always positive," Gina said. "I good kid... very sweet."

She's also fond of Carla's grandmother, veteran actress Delia Razon. "I devoted her on a TV show once," Gina reminded. "Tita Delia belongs to a generation of stars that I look up to."

CATCH THE SPECIAL SCREENING IN LIMITED CINEMAS FROM NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 1 ONLY!

EASTWOOD · GATEWAY CINEPLEX · GLORIETTA 4 · ROBINSONS PLACE ERMITA · ROBINSONS GALLERIA · SM CITY NORTH EDSA · SM MALL OF ASIA · SM MEGAMALL · TRINOMA

POWER PLANT CINEMA

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 2012 PG-13 12:00, 3:10, 6:20, 9:30

2 2012 PG-13 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

3 THIS IS IT PG-13 3:00, 6:10, 9:40, 9:50

4 ALL ABOUT STEVE PG-13 1:50, 4:10 LAW ABIDING CITIZEN R-18 8:30, 10:00

2012 PG-13 2:40, 6:20, 9:30

NEW MOON PICK-A-PRIZE PROMO

Shangri-La Plaza

ONE OF THE SCARIEST AND MOST TALKED-ABOUT MOVIES OF ALL TIME!

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY

PG-13

GREENHILLS CINEMAS THEATRE MALL

PROMENADE

S+TA. LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL

PATIENT X

ALL AGES ADMITTED

JIM CARREY

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

In Cinemas NOV. 25

OPENS NOVEMBER 26

NINJA ASSASSIN

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Advance tickets now available at the Eastwood Cinema ticketing booth

twilight new moon

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

NINJA ASSASSIN 7

At the Cinemas

GLORIETTA 4

GREENBELT 1

GREENBELT 3

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

TRINOMA

MARKET! MARKET!

ATAGA CENTER CEBU

MARQUEE

Ayala Malls

LOVE TO WATCH!

At the Malls

GLORIETTA

Sky Dive Exhibition
November 1-30, Glorietta 4 Atrium

GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

10 for 1 Years Sale!
November 20-22 & 27-30, Mallwide

MARKET! MARKET!

Spongebob Squeeze Parts live at the Ayala Malls:
Skates from Bikini Bottom
December 4-6, 1-3:30pm & 6pm, Activity Center

BONIFACIO HIGH STREET

November 20-22, Activity Post near New Wood

TRINOMA

Spongebob Squeeze Parts live at the Ayala Malls:
Skates from Bikini Bottom
November 19-22, 1pm, 3:30pm & 6pm,
Activity Center

ONSTAGE

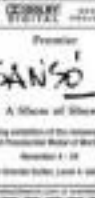
Jack And The Beanstalk
August 8 - December 10, 2009
For more details, please call
Pasay at 887-0710.

Ride SpongeBob Out the Garage and zoom in on the area of SpongeBob's sizzling parts! In the SpongeBob Activity Post at the Activity Center. Open for viewing for Mall Only Days: Wednesday and Friday, please watch Channel 2 for viewing schedule.

Glorietta · Greenbelt · Ayala Malls · Alabang Town Center · Market! Market! · Ayala Center Cebu · Marquee Mall

Baguio sighting before Vegas

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal



Matinee idol fails drug test, loses ad

A new look at St. Joseph, with music

Regents · Cinemalaya · Cinema One · Cinema Cabaret · Cinema 76 · Cinema 4 · Cinema 5 · Cinema 6 · Cinema 7 · Cinema 8 · Cinema 9 · Cinema 10 · Cinema Cabaret · Cinema 76 · Cinema 4 · Cinema 5 · Cinema 6 · Cinema 7 · Cinema 8 · Cinema 9 · Cinema 10

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

Disney On Ice Presents Disney Princess Dreams

WIN 4 VIP TICKETS
MEET THE DISNEY ON ICE STARS
NOV 6 TO DEC 27

Premier
SANSO
A Show of Shows